AVA'S DEMON

BOOK TWO: AFTERMATH

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Teaching Guide by Creators Assemble, Inc. | Lexile Measure: HL410L

This graphic novel has been adapted for print from a multimedia webcomic.

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CHAPTER 1

COUGH
COUGH COUGH

ᛊᚩᚴᛚᛁᛗ
ᛗᚩᚱᚱᚫᚧ...

WHIRRRRRRR
SV: EXCESSA-192
This... WAS where the ship was docked.... right?
I...uhm... I'm not sure! Maybe we took a wrong turn?
sigh
I can't take much more of this place, Gil ...
...I think I might be wilting.
Maggie ...
...that really was her back there... wasn't it?
I didn't... hallucinate it... or dream it?
Ava... is the one who did all of this?

Say, uhm...
were you aware your friend was capable of such atrocities?
Okay, first of all, she's not my friend-

Second of all...

It's like I said earlier, remember?
Ava isn't capable of anything good...
...
although
...

...I didn't think she'd ever...
...create a nightmare as vile as the one we witnessed today.

I think it was Ava...
...
but at the same time it wasn't.
It was as if she had been consumed by some kind of
...

...
primordial chaos.

But-how?!
And why here, of all places?
I think I'm going to be sick.
I stopped asking "why" a while ago.
She's a 10,000 degree enigma cloaked in mysteries.
SIGH

All I know is that we need to get as far away from her as possible!
So... are you-
...
...
are you the same as Ava?

...
"The same"?

What do you mean by "the same"?
CRACK
Oh! Heh! You see, uh, all I'm asking you is...well...

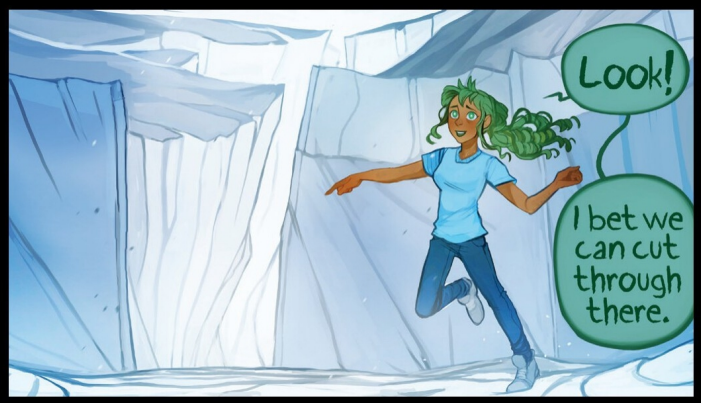
...are you also consumed... by a...
... primeval-something-or-other?

SV: EXCESSA-192

Wha-!?
Are those things taking off from here?!
They look like cargo vessels!
Perhaps there's a dock to the west of us?

Do you think we could catch one out of this place?!
Well I suppose-
It doesn't hurt to try?

GREAT! Let's go, c'mon!
Hey wait-
You said "west" right!?


Look!
I bet we can cut through there.

I think I can see the dockyard!
But-
Gil, Hurry! Before all the ships LEAVE!
You wanna get stranded?

Deep breaths, Gil.
SIGGHH

Maggie, wait!!

Maybe we should speak to a soldier first?
If there are any left?

WELL,
WELL,
WELL.

LOOK who's RISEN from his SLUMBER.

WHY, it's our dear friend-
THE SPINELESS DESERTER!

Heh heh heh...
A.... A-Ava?
IN the FLESH.

Thought you had lost me ...
...hadn't you?
Although ...
I DID get to REDECORATE during your ABSENCE.
It's all certainly less expensive looking, but ...
Not quite as FIERY as before. Don't you agree?
Wait... th-that explosion ...!
And... all that h-heat?
Th-that... was you-?
SPEAKING OF HEAT-!
I think there's something FIERCE left in me.
HEY!
You know what would REALLY tie this room TOGETHER?
...

TIME'S UP! SAY IT WITH ME!

A... BURNING-

EFFIGY!!

COUGH COUGH
COUGH COUGH
COUGH

COUGH
COUGH COUGH

BOMF

H-hey! Are...
...are you a-all right?

I didn't m-mean to desert you ...
...h-h-honest.

That's not the r-reason why you're like this...
...is it?
Like... ...what?

Wh-?! H-have you noticed how you look!?
Th-the clothes y-you're in?!
The horns on y-your head!?
Hh... orm... ...ns...

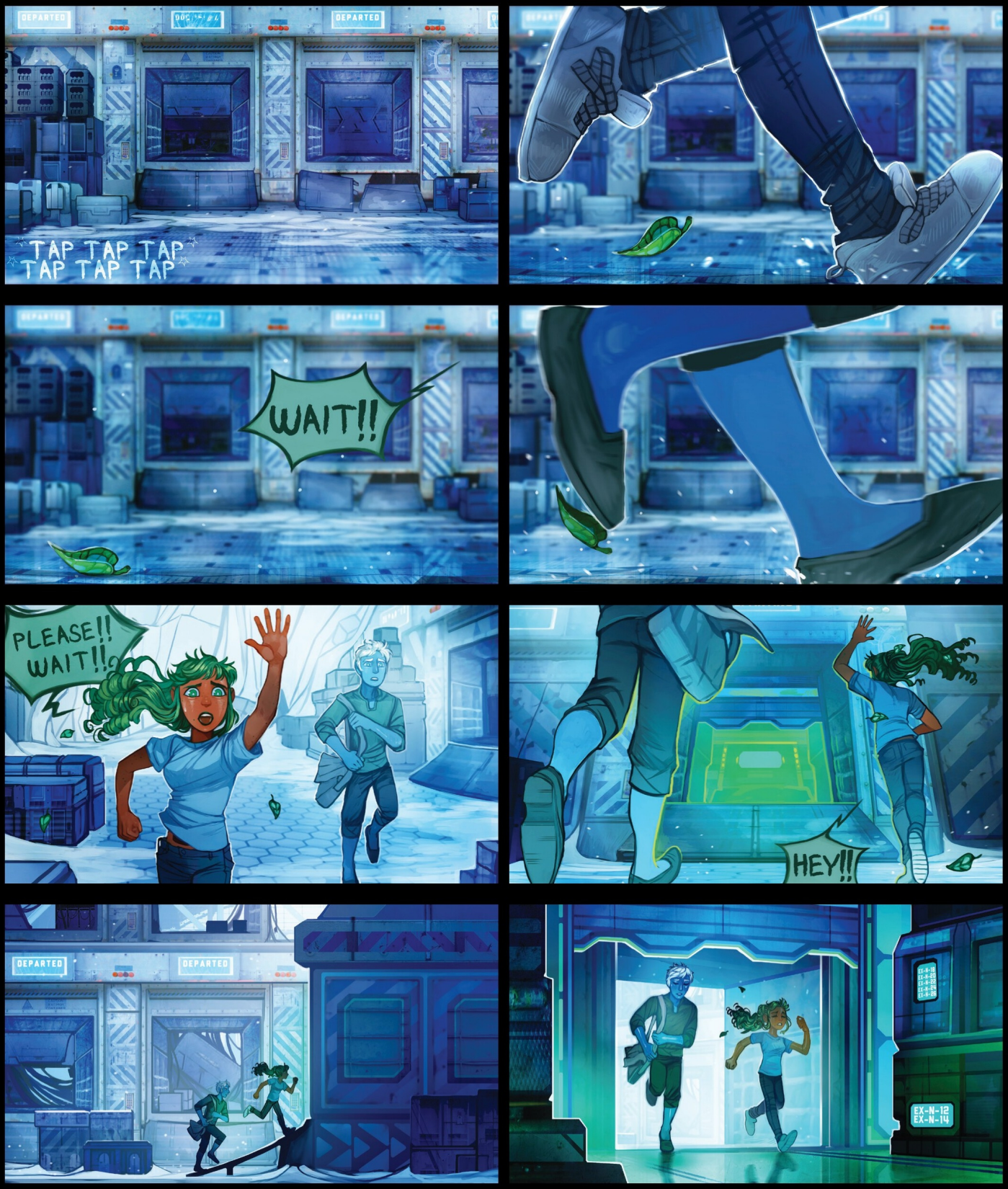
And...a-all that...that power!?
The f-fire you WILLED out of th-th-thin air!?

If you actually d-decimated this place... all on your own...
...then you're n-not like any natural humanoid I know of.
Not w-with power of this magnitude.

Y-you possess all the aspects of s-s-something ...not from this dimensional realm.

Wh-who are you, really...
...
"Ava Ire"?
Who... am I...?
You can t-tell me ...
I'm...
...
dream-
...
-iiinnng-
-nngh
...
W-w wait!!
Wake up! We c-can't stay here!
SHAKE
SHAKE

!!!
Maggie!?
She's s-still here?!
She h-has to be close ...
crack crack
L-let's go, Ava.
We'll f-find Maggie ...
...and f-finish this mission.


DEPARTED
DEPARTED
TAP TAP TAP
TAP TAP TAP
WAIT!!
PLEASE!! WAIT!!
HEY!!
DEPARTED
DEPARTED
EX-N-12
EX-N-14

PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
EX-N-12
EX-N-14

Hello!?
Anyone here?!
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
EX-N-12
EX-N-14

PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
EX-N-24
EX-N-26

Huh? It's empty...
It seems to be an automated cargo ship?
I really do NOT think we should be doing this-

W-W-WAIT!!

WAAIIIT!!!
Titan, help us.

HOLD THE DOOR!!!
EXCESSA

HOLD THE DOOR!!!

WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
bzzrt
bzzrt
bzzrt
CLOSE THE DOOR! CLOSE THE DOOR!!
LEAP
THUD
CLANG
pant
pant
pant
roll

A-AVA!?!
OH... NO...
You're ....
...you're insane.
pant pant pant
DIDN'T I TELL YOU!?
You're... actually insane
pant pant
WHRRRRRRRR
Yeah- w-well... y-you and me both, pal.
WHAT is your DEAL!?!
Are you chasing us out of spite?!
You're here to kill us, aren't you?!
You and Ava?!
The refugee center obviously couldn't contain you two-
-and now you've come to exact revenge on the ones who put you there-
Wh- what- I-!?
I bet he helped Ava destroy the H.Q. in the first place-
-and he's followed us in a sad attempt to try and clean up his TRACKS!
A-are you serious!?
I have no idea what you're t-t-talking about.
I'm n-not here to hurt anyone.
Really!?
Couldn't have found a different ship?
You just NEEDED to jump onto this one?
Well, I had a d-different sh-ship-
-until a certain s-s-SOMEONE crashed it!
I wouldn't have crashed it if you hadn't brought me on board!
Hold on a minute-

Maggie ...
I thought you said ...
Odin crashed the ship?
Heh, whaa-?

That he was a "fugitive" ...
...that he crashed the ship as if he were mad?
Well- I- Uh, you see-

I saved us from S-Scavengers.
SHUT UP STALKER!
D-Debris knocked her out and when she w-woke up sh-she tried to kill me.

You should t-tell Gil about how you put me in a p-plant-based chokehold with your branch arms.
Not until you talk about how you only rescued me because you're OBSESSED with me.
Oh! Right, I remember now...

I knew those leaves of yours looked familiar, Maggie!
The crash site was littered with them.

I also remember having to pry Odin from a large, twisted, green branch ...
...out of which grew those same teal-colored leaves.

Okay ...
... okay ...

I might have... crashed the ship.

I kind of restrained Odin and...I might have bashed in the dashboard...
...and the ship sort of... drifted into the atmosphere of your planet-
You lied to me?
It was all in self-defense!
What else did you lie to me about!?
Not a thing, I swear-
And you weren't going to tell me about your...arboreal abnormality?
But I keep my tree side a secret from everyone.
Not just you!
Everyone that you don't plan on choking, evidently.
That... that was different!
I had to take out Odin before he knew I was awake or-
I thought Odin was restrained in self-defense!?
No I- I crashed the ship in self-defense!
But then, what were you defending yourself from if Odin was bound?!
Your branches were wrapped so tightly around him that they left bruises.
Hey! He had Ava tied up, too!
Ask her- Er, well, maybe you can't right now, but-
I didn't want to end up living on his trashy planet, alright?
I had to escape somehow!
Hold on... so what you're telling me is ...
...that you crashed a ship into the surface of a planet ...
... nearly killing yourself and two tied-up individuals ...
... in self-defense.
.....
.....

Well... maybe the crashing part wasn't in self-defense
I knew it. Yet another lie.

Do you even want to be a Follower...
...or is that a lie as well?
Of course I want to be a Follower!

Well I've got news for you, Maggie.
Followers of TITAN don't resort to violence and harm to get what they want.

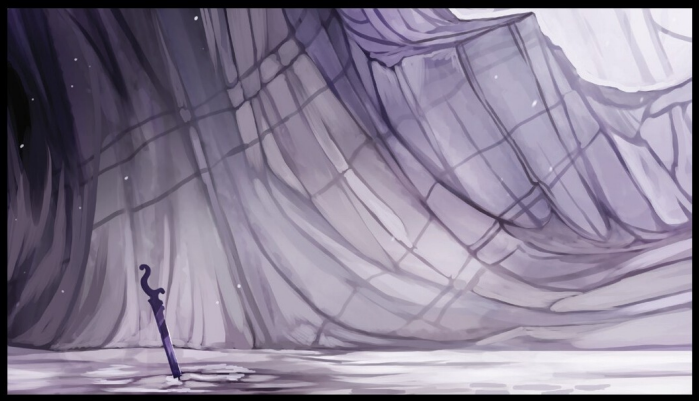
And never would they lie about their misdeeds ...
... especially to OTHER Followers.

Y-yeah, Maggie-
F-Followers of Titan don't choke people w- with their big tree fists-
NO ONE WAS TALKING TO YOU!!!

...
Oh, dear... ...what have I gotten myself into?
I'm- I'm sorry, Gil...

...please don't be mad at me...

CHAPTER 2

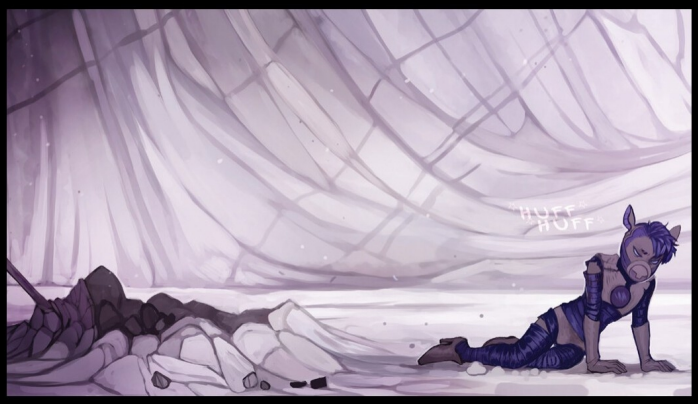


CRACK

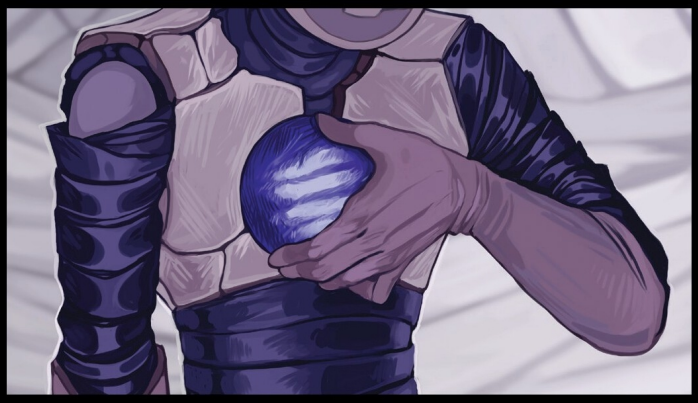
GASP
GASP

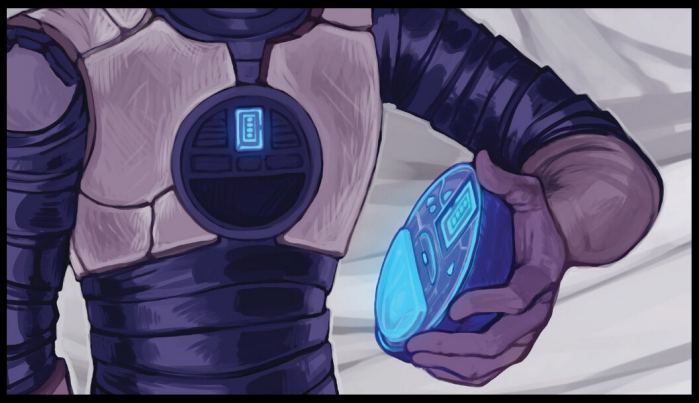
HHH
HHHH

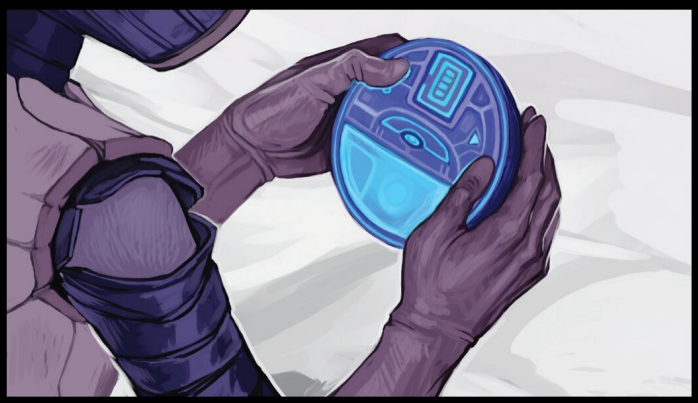
HHHHH
HUFF
HUFF

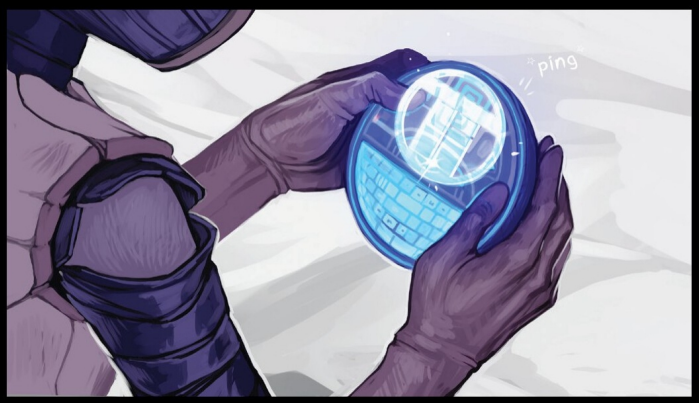

HUFF
HUFF

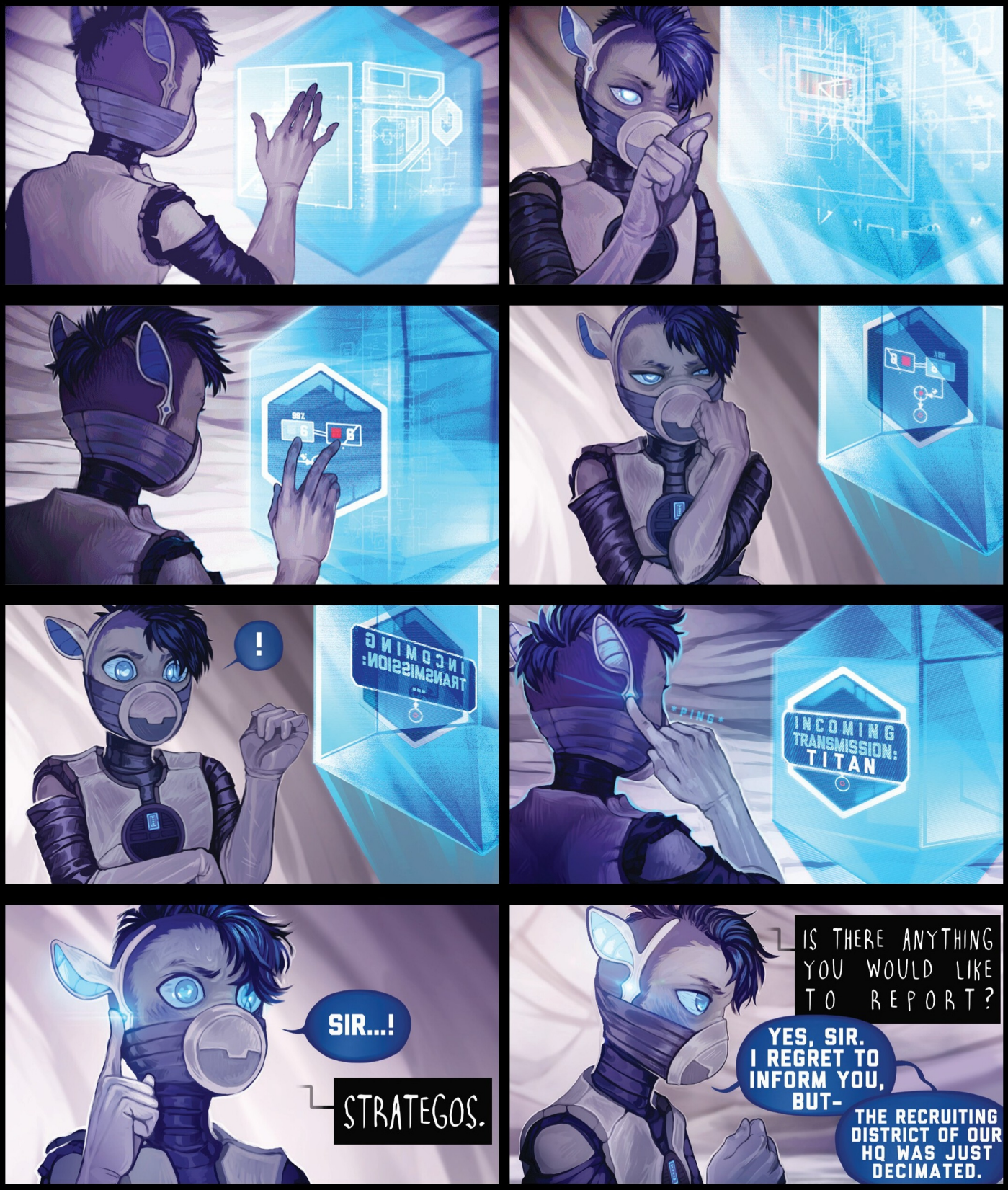
HHHHH
HHHHH
HHHHH
HHHHH

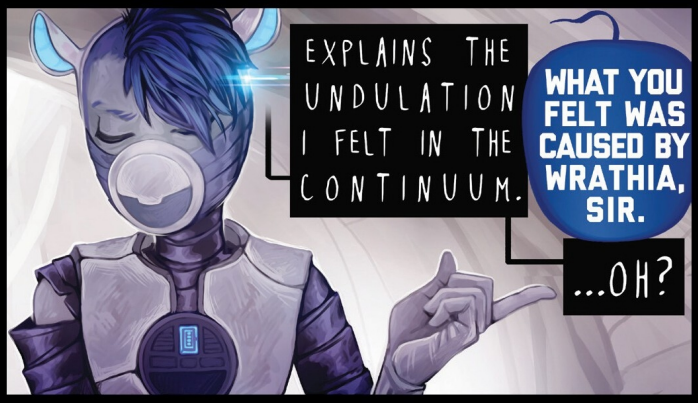







ping


!
INCOMING TRANSMISSION: TITAN
SIR...!
STRATEGOS.
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO REPORT?
YES, SIR. I REGRET TO INFORM YOU, BUT-
THE RECRUITING DISTRICT OF OUR HQ WAS JUST DECIMATED.


EXPLAINS THE UNDULATION I FELT IN THE CONTINUUM.
WHAT YOU FELT WAS CAUSED BY WRATHIA, SIR.
...OH?

SO THE SNAKE HAS REVEALED HERSELF TO YOU.
SHE MADE A GIFT FOR YOU, SIR.
...
GO ON ...

WELL... IT'S...
IT'S A MOST "FLATTERING" RENDITION OF HERSELF...
...SPITEFULLY SCULPTED FROM THE REMAINS OF OUR INFRASTRUCTURE.

ALSO, SIR ...IT'S OF ACCURATE SCALE.
IT IS.
AND HOW, PRAY TELL, WAS SHE ABLE TO LEAVE SUCH A GIFT?

IT'S MY FAULT.
I...HAD TO SURRENDER, SIR.
IS THAT SO...
SIR, I ADMIT... I MISCALCULATED THE UTTER FEROCITY OF HER POWERS.

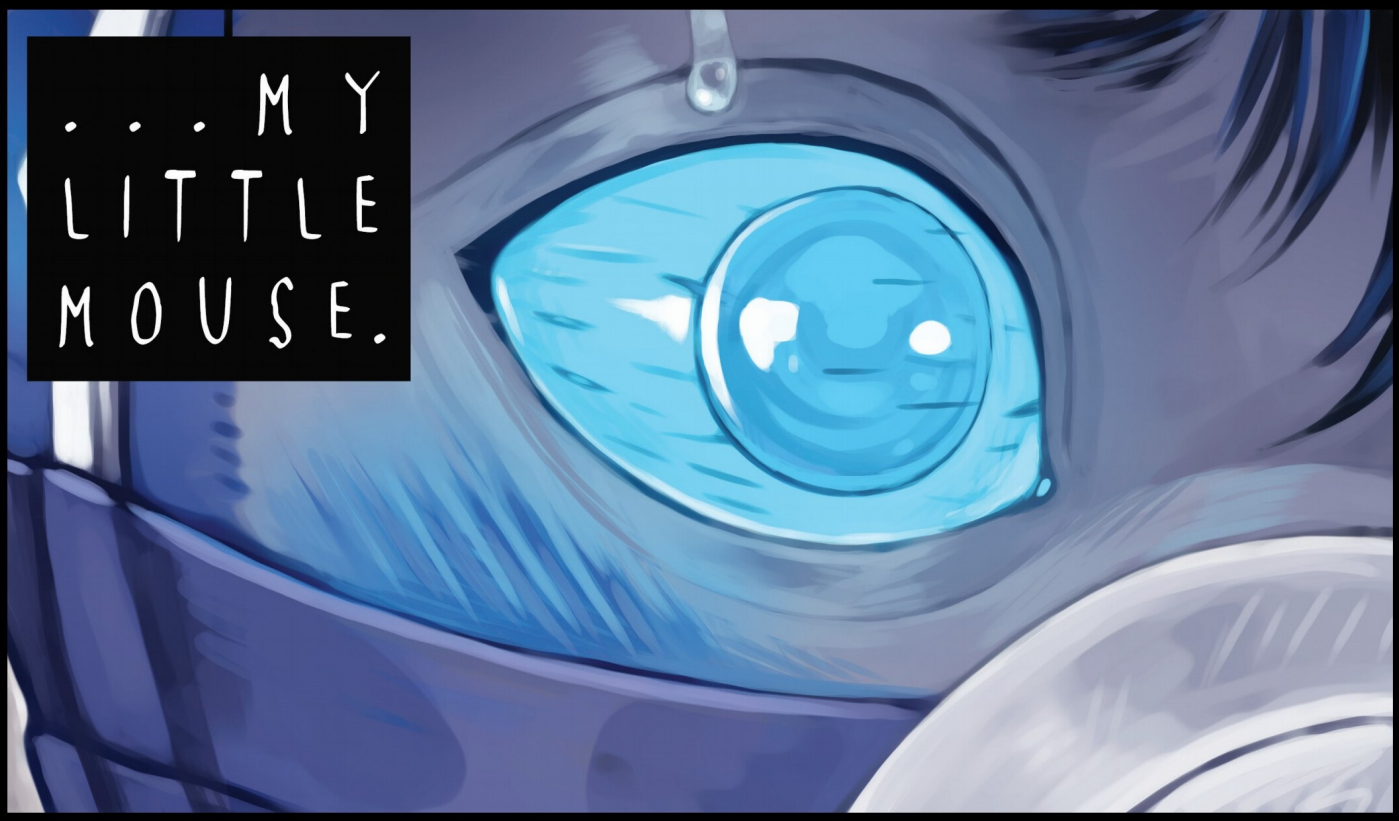
BUT... NEXT TIME ...
NEXT TIME I WILL BE PREPARED!
...

WILL YOU?
Y-...
Y-YES SIR.

.....
.....
.....
.....

SIX!
YES SIR!?
WHAT IS THAT SILLY HUMANOID PHRASE AGAIN?
SORRY, A PHRASE, SIR?

OH! RIGHT.
"GO FORTH AND CONQUER"


...MY LITTLE MOUSE.

DISCONNECTED

...
YES SIR ...

COUGH COUGH

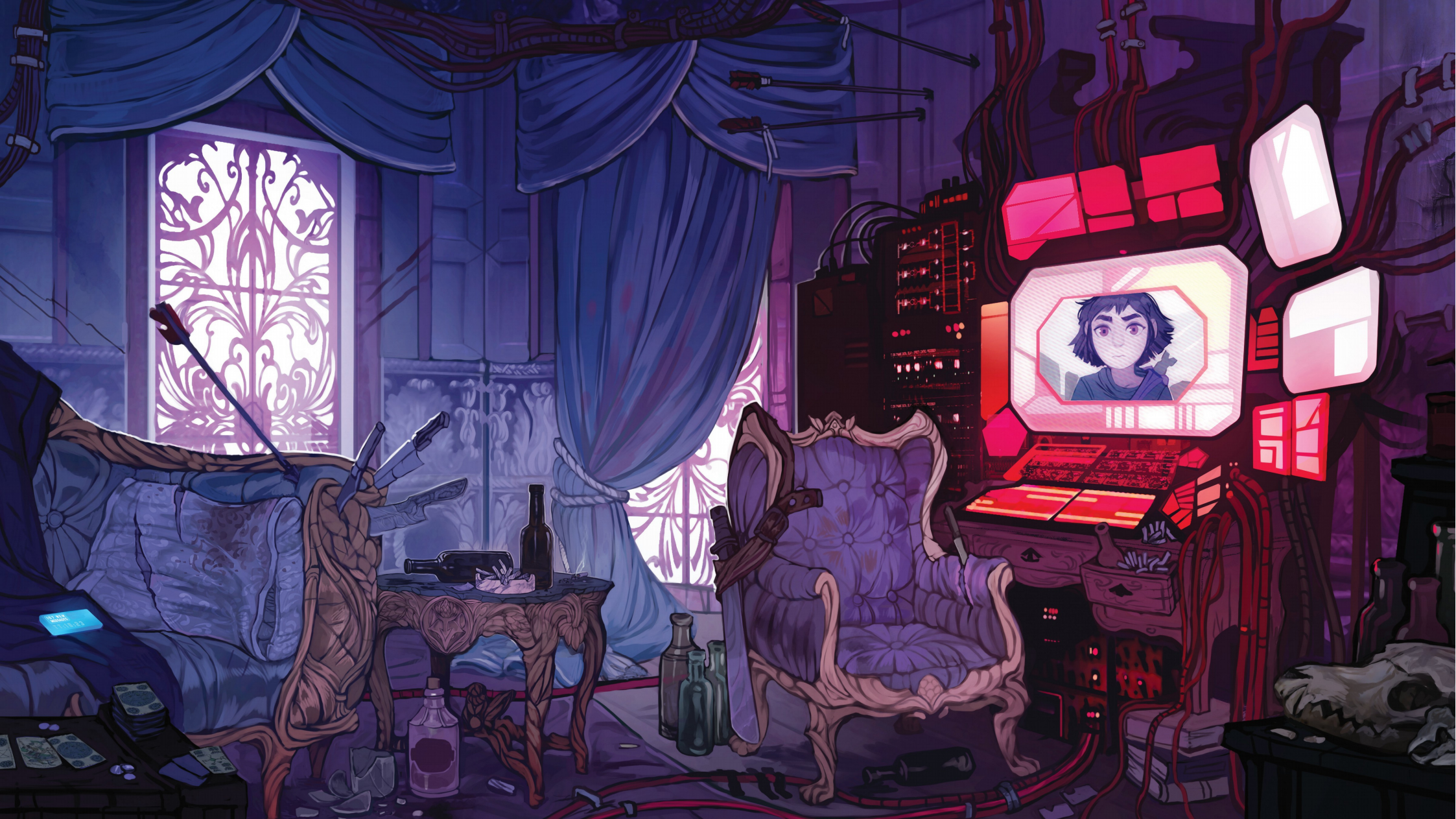
ACHOO
WAAH!
It's... it's snowing?!

It's ash, Raven.
Haha, oh...
Everything is toast from whatever exploded us into the next dimension.
I didn't think scavengers were able to attack the HQ.!

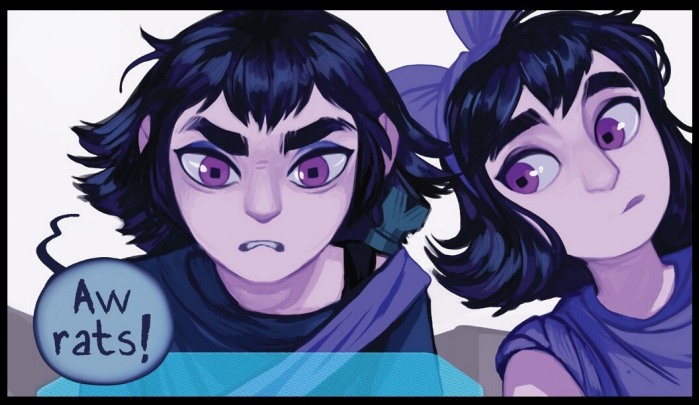
I'm not so sure it was scavengers.
You don't think Odin had something to do with it, do you?
Huh? Really?
I don't know, but this is the perfect time-

-to call Olai and find out what's going on.
Uhg... do we gotta'?
We have to report on Odin.

Besides, you want a ride home, don't ya?
I guess so...
Hope he's not in one of his "moods".
OUTGOING TRANSMISSION
OLAI
Well... I'm willing to put up with his temper-
-if it means we get home sooner.
'Cus I promised I would be back before sunset.
...
For your date?
INCOMING TRANSMISSION:
CROW
Hello?
Olai?
Are you there?



ARROP


Aw rats!

Hey, wait- Look there-!

Someone's at the door, I think!
Is that Merita!?

Merita?!
MERITA!
MERITA!!

Merita, over here!
Over here!!!
On the screen!!
Eh?

Careful-
Look out for the-

-wires!
Oof!

Lady Ravenia!
Lady Crowlie!

Olai has very much ruined your mother's study, hasn't he?
Guess he's finally run out of things to destroy in his bedroom.

Gee, you two are lookin' rough! Where are you?
We're stranded at TITAN's HQ.
Stranded?! Oh no!

I can see Olai isn't home.
Would you happen to know where he went?
I believe his Majesty is out hunting with the council.
But he should be back soon!

Well, when he comes back, can you please ask him-
-to send a drone ship to the HQ that we can pilot home?
Will do, my Lady!
Thanks a bunch, Merita ...
Oh! Wait! I have one last thing I wanted to ask you-

Did you still want to-
-explore abandoned houses with me later?
We can bring rocks and smash windows!!

Of course, my Lady!
I'm looking forward to it!

Cute...
CROW! EW!!!

Merita, just make sure Olai-
-actually sends us a ship, okay?

VISITOR LOGS
TOR LOG : HEADQUARTERS:
: ARRIVAL TIME
SCROLL
*SCROLL
...
!

VISITORS #5209 - 5212

GIL MARVERDE ...
VISITORS #5209 - 5212
OPTIONS
CATALOG
ALERT SYSTEM
... SO YOU'RE THE ONE BRINGING DEMONS TO MY DOORSTEP.

HOW VERY INTERESTING ...
...AND YET...

GIL
ALERT SYSTEM
...SO VERY... DISAPPOINTING ...

You gotta' really bug him-
-or he'll forget to send it.
RaVEN-! Get OFF me aLReaDY!!

I'll do my best!
So don't be afraid to yell at him.

Eh?
CRIMINAL ALERT BROADCAST
PLEASE STAND BY

Gil... I am so sorry.
...I didn't want to lie to you.

I figured telling you the truth ...
...would have made you afraid of me.
You believe me...
... don't you?

Today has been such a disaster.
And I... really don't know what to believe.

In fact... I should have listened to-
I mean I- this is all my fault.

I should have never brought strangers to the HQ.

I don't know what I was thinking when I took such a risk.
But it's clear to me now that something is dangerously wrong with all of you.

And so I've decided...
...that upon landing, we will go our seperate ways.
What?! Wait, no-!
Yes.

I'm sorry it has to be this way ...
...but I'm not equipped to aid such troubled individuals.
EX-
EX-

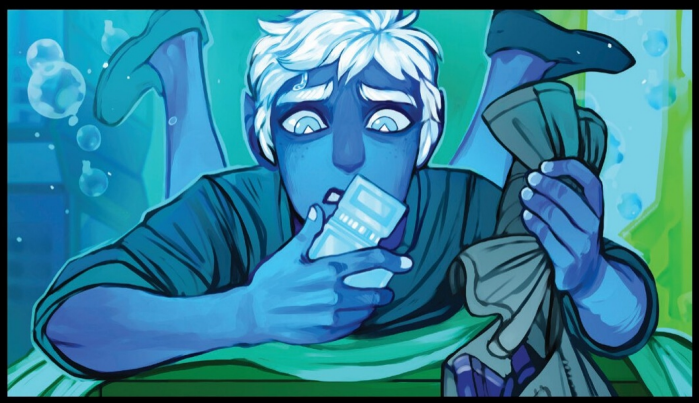
tch
Your destinies are in the decisive hands of TITAN from here on out.
And so for the rest of our short time together-
-I will pray for TITAN to spare your misguided souls on your days of judgement.
ATTENTION- ALL LIFEFORMS WITHIN A 50.2 LIGHT-YEAR RADIUS- OF THE MAIN HEADQUARTERS- ATTENTION-
ACCOMPLICE B
ACCOMPLICE C
ATTENTION- THIS IS A CRIMINAL ALERT BROADCAST-
BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THE INDIVIDUALS PICTURED BELOW
-WANTED FOR CRIMES AGAINST THE FOLLOWERS OF TITAN-
PLEASE REPORT ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THESE INDIVIDUALS OR OTHER SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES TO YOUR TITAN OFFICIALS-
THIS HAS BEEN AN AUTOMATIC BROADCAST BY THE CRIMINAL ALERT SYSTEM-
Hey, WAIT- why are you and I on this hit list!?
We didn't do anything!
Euh...
Did we?

This ...

This can't ...
...really be happening ...

This... can't be-

THIS CAN'T BE-!
THIS ISN'T REAL!!



D173

VOID
VOID
Nh-
NO!!!

IT IS REAL! IT'S ALL REAL!!
I'VE BEEN REDLISTED! I'VE BEEN REDLISTED-

OH TITAN, OH TITAN HELP ME.
I AM, aren't I-
I'M- I'M A- A FAILURE- A CRIMINAL- Oh no-
Oh no- OH NO-
Criminally REDLISTED- Oh, how is this HAPPENING?!

It'll be okay, Gil!
Oh, goodness, what am I going to do?!
HUFF HUFF
This has to be a mistake!

F-for starters you could r-relax.
Over-reacting w-won't help y-your situation.
Wh!? Over-reacting!?
OVER-REACTING!?
The nerve you have to accuse me of that!

My life is OVER! It's RUINED!
Every-thing I've worked for is GONE!

Years of dedication and service ...
... wiped from the record.
Attaining Paradise has been reduced to a wild FANTASY.

Worst of all, I've committed crimes against my fellow Followers. Do you know what that means?!
I'm a vile traitor! A defector!!
I've become the biggest threat to the livelihood of TITAN's noble society.
The Titanauts will hunt me down like an ANIMAL.
Yeah. Th-that sucks.

And, you know, maybe, just MAYBE-
-if you weren't a- a-

-a complete DEGENERATE-
-you might BEGIN to understand the gravity of my situation!

F-first of all-
-that was t-totally unnecessary ...
I'm n-not a "degenerate."

I DARE SAY!
YOUR DISPLAY OF POWER WAS QUITE GLORIOUS, WAS IT NOT?
TELL ME, AVA, HOW DID YOU LIKE IT?

It... it was ...

IT WAS INCREDIBLE!

S-s-second of all:
-the universe is a big place, G-Gil.
Y-you'll just have to find-
-a new cult t-to live in!
Did you just call it a "cult" again?

MY CONSCIOUS MIND MELTED INTO AN OMNIPOTENT SEA OF CONTROL AND POWER-!
I WAS THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA!
A DOMINEERING AND INVULNERABLE FORCE OF WILL!!
RIDING WAVES OF PRIMAL RAGE WITH EVERY RUTHLESS REPRISAL!!

Stop calling it a "cult"! It's the most civilized way of life in the universe and you KNOW IT!
What are you even SAYING?!
Every prosperous society from here to the edge of nothing thrives on TITAN's law!
I th-think that's more a m-matter of opinion-
hhnn~

I was an incorporeal, winged ego -!
Momentarily liberated from the woes of my flesh~!
Cosmic liquid embracing my every atom.
THE FIREY, WILD FANTASY WE KNEW IT WOULD BE-
Yes... a fantasy ...
My soul transformed into molten ferocity.
a wild... fantasy ...

Wh-what I'm t-t-trying to say is-
-the life of a t-traitor won't be so bad...
...once you t-travel far enough.
Are you actually suggesting I go live on the fringes of society?
Embrace the role of a depraved pariah!?

I'm sure the edge of n-nothing has a few planets that n-need doctors.
This is just some kind of joke to you, isn't it?!
nnn~

I'm... a bit sad though, Wrathia.
WHY, DEAR AVA?
The vial was so small!
I'm going to miss feeling in control.

Though... I don't blame you for giving me such a tiny dose.
Who knows what other crazy things I would have done?
Had the potion not worn off, I mean.

To be honest, now that I know what it feels like ...
...I think I'm okay with not riding that high forever.
.....
A .... "HIGH"?

HAAHAHA HA HA HA!! WUUAAAH?!
HOW! QUAINT!
YOU THOUGHT ....
THIS WAS A "HIGH" THAT YOU COULD COME DOWN FROM?!

HAHA HAHAH AHAHAH HAAA~!
STILL SUCH A SIMPLE HUMAN!!

Honestly, it must have been real nice for you, growing up, where-ever you were raised-
-to obviously have had so few responsibilities that you can act this careless-
-and suffer no consequences or regret!!

Unlike certain people, I can't just-
-go and pick up where I left off on some lawless planet full of primitive non-believers!
Nnnhg~

I was to become more than just a doctor!
I would have been a part of the most important work the universe has ever seen!
I would have been working in the name of TITAN, the savior of all living things!!
Euh... hey, Gil? Guys?
tug tug
SIGH

MY SWEET, FOOLISH AVA.

DO YOU NOT LISTEN TO WHAT I SAY?

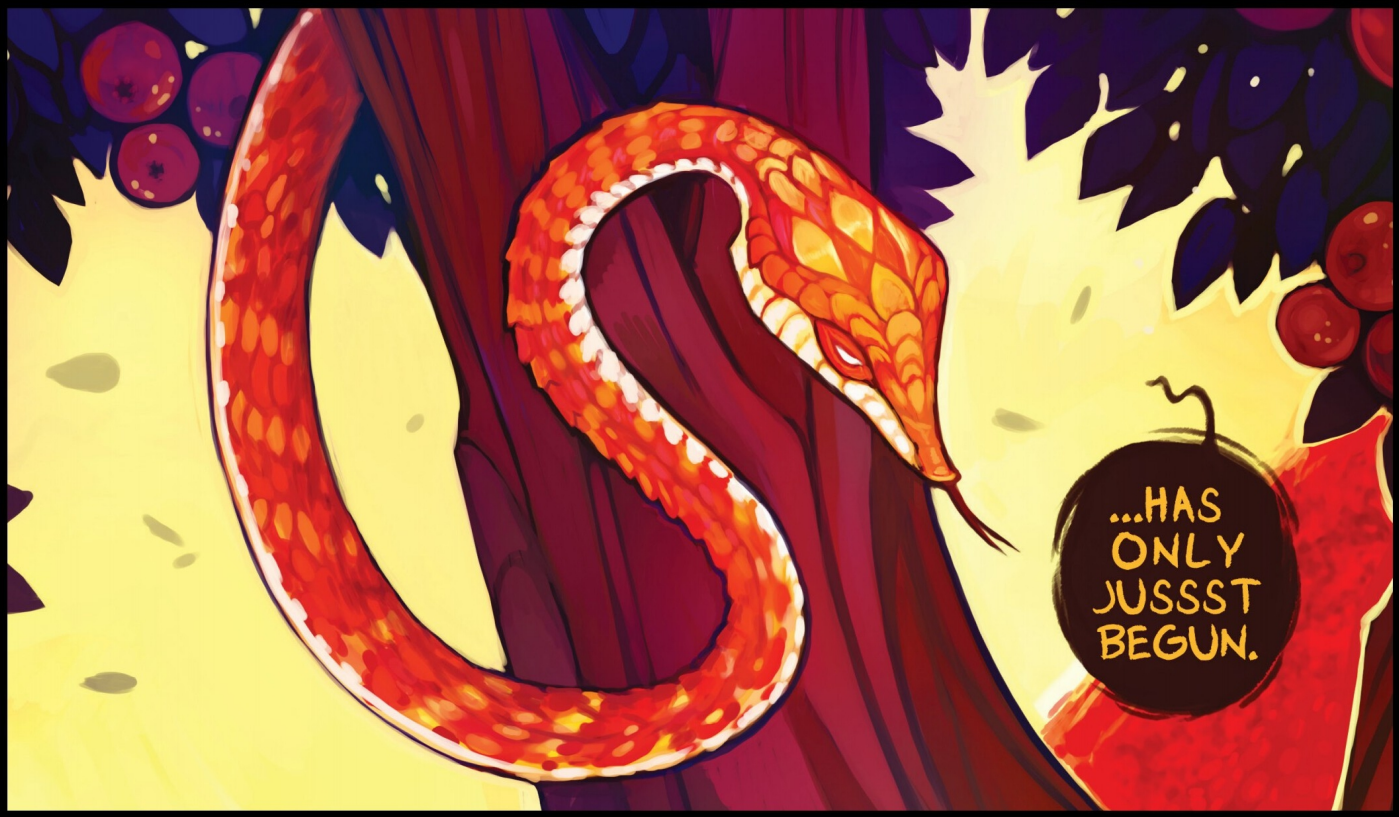
WHAT YOU CONSUMED ...
...WAS NOT SIMPLY A "POTION."

WHAT YOU CONSUMED ...
...WAS A CURSE.

CAREFULLY CONCOCTED TO LAST YOU THIS LIFETIME...
...AND A THOUSAND LIFETIMES AFTER.

IN OTHER WORDSSS...

THISSS HIGH OF YOURSSS ...


...HAS ONLY JUSSST BEGUN.

I belonged to an elite group of beings, you know? I was saving the universe!
I was a messenger for a cause greater than all of us-!
And now...
Euhh... ...guys?

...now what am I?!

YOU-!
LYING-!!

SNAKE!!!

Oh ...

Just a dream ...
... heh.

?

...

Have we arrived at the HQ?

You mean the place you just annihilated?!

EUAH- HELP!
PUT IT OUT!!

Here-! Let me-!
HSSSSSS

Sorry about that ...

I guess not all of it was a dream.

A dream?
A DREAM!?

No, Ava, it wasn't a dream...
It was an atrocious NIGHTMARE!
I almost can't believe it was REAL.

The destruction you caused?
The innocent people that you slaughtered?
What kind of disgusting creature lives behind that weak facade of yours?
Though, I can't say I'm surprised that you did-
-considering how much of my life you've already ruined.
Not even I could stoop this low.

Not to mention the petty nerd who tossed you on board like a souvenir-
HEY!
Odin brought me here?
I see you over there!
Quit pretending like you had nothing to do with this!
...

Maggie, I'm sorry ...
...I have a confession to make.
Earlier I...
... after you abandoned us at the HQ ...
...I asked Odin to help me find you- and- so-...

So... I guess... ...
...Odin brought me here at my request.
And- nnn- well-
So much has happened since that dream we both had-
...I have so much to ask you- and- tell you- nn- and I-...

I was afraid... I would never see you again.
I couldn't bare the idea of losing you forever...
...to this big and dreadful universe.

...
Hah!
I knew it.
You're still not over me.
How pathetic.
Eh?
Do yourself a favor-
-and crush on someone else for a change.
Hey!!
NOT LISTENING!! AND I'M NOTHING LIKE YOU!!
Mm-!
Maggie, wait! It's... not about that-! Not really-!
I'm not listening!
I can't leave you now that I know you're haunted, JUST LIKE ME!!

I saw him, Maggie! The tree-horned ghost!?
What was his name-
T...
Tuls?
I'M! NOT!! LISTENING!!!
!!!
!

Gil!
I can explain myself!
DON'T LISTEN TO HER!!
I can explain everything!
She can't explain ANYTHING! She's CRAZY!

I know what I did at the HQ wasn't the best course of action but hear me out, please!
"Course of action"...?
Fffor me it never is- or, well, it never has been- easy to control my actions-
-and I know I turned a lot of people into stardust back there, but I-

Oh good!
So you are aware that your "course of action" included murdering the innocent.
Wha- wait- you weren't in the auditorium when I was forced on stage!
I was... trapped up there...
They forced me on stage with guns at my back-
-and shoved me into that awful machine! That "Paradise" machine.
You didn't see the horrible things they do to people in that machine!
They dissect you and shape you into some kind of ugly TITAN clone-!
And ...

...and NO ONE helped me!
Not one person in that crowd cared about my suffering.
Not one.
They all just applauded and gawked at me in glee-
-with their cold, blue eyes and rotten expressions.
Especially that...that Strategos RAT!

HSSSSS
That Strategos had it out for me!!
Singling me out and humiliating me like they did.
If only I could bust out of that machine one last time-
- I'd hurl the Strategos so hard into the pavement-
You're talking about...
Strategos Six?
-that they'd burst into a fine cobalt mist!

Hold on- when I last saw you ....
...you and the Strategos were...
...did... you murder Strategos Six...?
I...
...did what it took to escape-!

I can't listen to this any longer or I'll be sick-
NO, GIL, WAIT-!

LET ME JUST-
RRRRRRIPP
-SHOW YOU!

EX-N-12
EX-N-14
click

Look, SEE!
Everything I've been dealing with-
-is locked away in this stupid drawer!

Though... it's more like a demonic spirit or....

...a sort of alien ghost that can possess you ...

... mind, body and soul.

And it can only be seen by the creature whose mind it haunts.

For as long as I can remember, she's been scary...

...haunting me with the stories of her past and her plans for revenge.

I've done only terrible things while under her influence.

And only recently did she convince me to listen to her.

She promised me a new life if I help complete her unfinished business.

I have NO IDEA what she's talking about.

Sounds to me like a bunch of hot garbage she just made up as an excuse.
Maggie why!?!
She does it *all* the time.

I'm *not* making up excuses-
You certainly distracted us with a bunch of conspiratorial ramblings!
I'm not trying to *distract* you, either-!
You're so *stupid*- If only you would just-
-listen to me!

No, you listen!
Nothing you say can distract me from the images of slain followers burned into my mind!
And it won't distract me from the nasty lack of self control you exhibit.

Nor will it hide whatever disgusting trick you used to pull off that...
...bodily horror show.
I'm not scared of you, you hear me, Ava?!

ARRGH GMMPHH HHNNNG!!
I'm trying to be honest!
I'm not trying to scare you!

I know it's hard for you to hear this... but maybe for once you might consider-
-that TITAN himself is, by your standards, a criminal!

And that the TRUTH is-
No-
-maybe none of what TITAN has built -
Stop it-
-was built without hurting others-!

ENOUGH!!

You think you've got it all FIGURED OUT, don't you!?

Well, I was raised by TITAN and his Followers.
I already KNOW the truth.
So you can spare me your "honesty."

squint
Furthermore, you can count on me to turn you in as soon as we disembark-
GASP

...even if it means I have to turn myself in with you!

AH! WOW!!

Gil! You're haunted, too!?
Gosh, all this time?! I should have known!
What are you talking about-!?

Don't come any closer-!
I can see you standing there, you know?
Can you see me?

Of course I can see you!
Not you-
HER!
!

She's one of Wrathia's warriors!
N-not the glasses again.
Er-you are one, aren't you?
What's going ooonn ...?

My name is Ava Ire.
What name do you go by?

So you're talking to-
Shoot... that's right.
I guess I can't hear you with glasses...
...I can only see you, heh.
-oh my stars-
She... she can actually see me?!
She's looking right at me-!

I doubt Gil would relay anything you're saying without proof I can see you, huh?
Well, I knew I recognized you from-
-erh-
-I know it's in here somewhere-

AHA! Here it is!
This is you! Right?
It sure looks a lot like you.

Well, the horns look a lot like yours, at the very least.

OH! Goodness! Are you seeing this, Gil?!
It's me!
IT'S ME!
She KNOWS who I AM! This is fate, Gil!
What!?
Nevy! Wait!
There is order to the madness we're drowning in, after all!

Knock it off, Ava! Can't you see that you're scaring him!?
You've given Gil more than enough grief for one day!
I h-h-hate to agree-
-but Maggie makes a good p-point.
I can feel them...
...nostalgic waves of holy energy!

Gross. Don't ever agree with me again.
Ava, maybe you should c-cool it on the antics before Gil b-b-br-
Wow! Ya' know I just gotta' say...
...Wrathia really didn't do you any justice in this drawing.
-breaks.
She's not even listening.

Were you and Wrathia ...
...uhm

...good friends?

WRATHIA...
BELLARMINA!

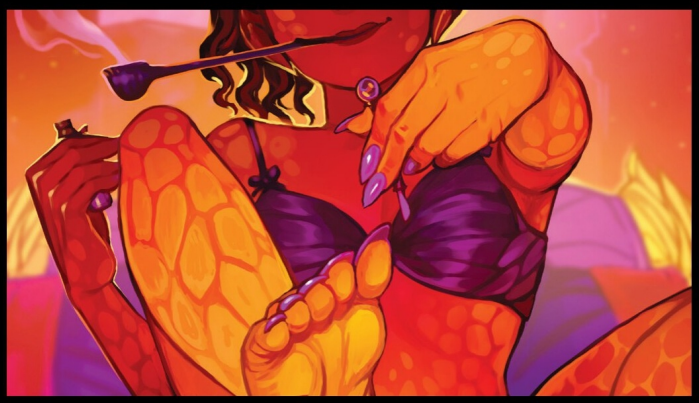
SPEEEEEEEEEE

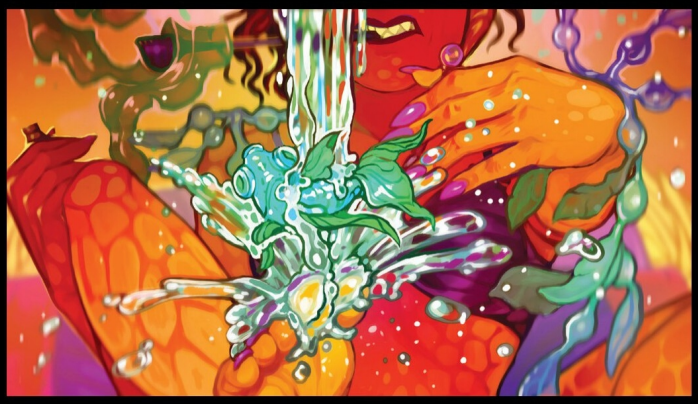
WRATHIA BELLARMINA!
VENGESS QUEEN OF THE CURSED!

TRAITOR TO YOUR PEOPLE!
AUHG! THAT NOISE!!
SHE'S IN MY HEAD! STOP! Tell her to STOP!!

PLEASE!!
Tell her I'm not who she thinks I am-AHnG!!
T-tell...wh-wh-who that.. what? I'm so confused.
You're n-not m-making any sense.
I think the ship is also confused.

TRAITOR WHO KILLED THYSELF IN COWARDICE-
You're-talking about her plan-!? NNGH-!
-WHILE RIVERS OF BLOOD FLOWED THROUGH THE RUINS OF HER EMPIRE!
I can't-ANHGGH-!! Nightmarish-screeching-! Mind-probing-HORRORS!!





GASP!
flit flit
IS THAT A... LIVING CREATURE!?

CURSE YOU, AVA!
HOW IS YOUR MIND THIS FILTHY?

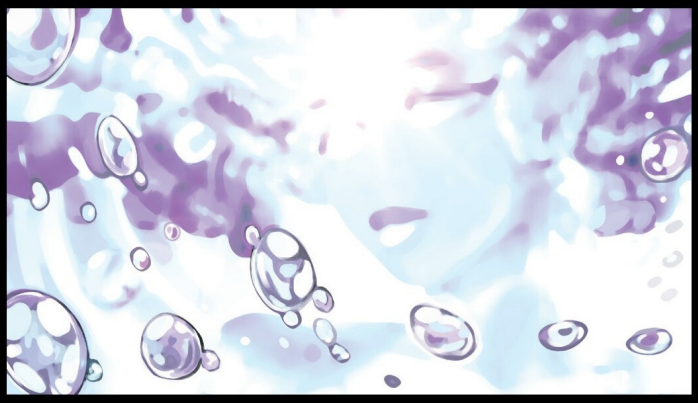
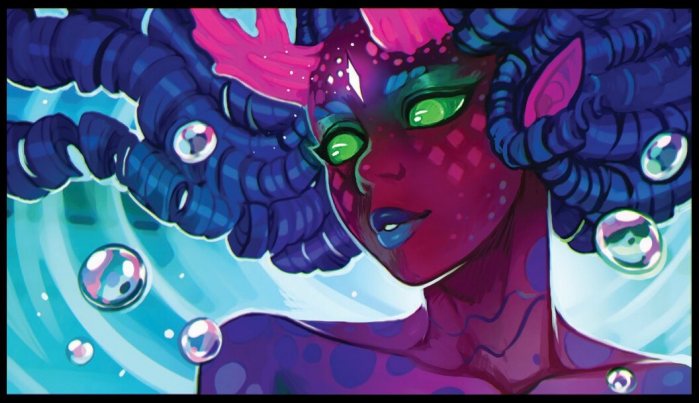
AHA! IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN... I THINK WE'VE RUN INTO ...NEVY?
OR ONE OF COVETESS KIND AT LEAST.
THEY'RE ALREADY IN THE FIGHTING SPIRIT, I SEE!

HOPE THEY DON'T WASTE ALL THAT GOOD PSYCHIC ENERGY ON BRAIN-WASHING THE BRAT-

AS THE HIGHEST PRIESTESS BETWEEN THIS UNIVERSE AND THE METACHAOS OF THE FOUR CREATORS-
-ON BEHALF OF THE OCEANIC DOMAINS RULED BY THE BIOFLUXITE, COVETESS PROPHETS-
She can see Nevy ...
I'm not crazy...
GIL!! PLEASE!
CALL HER OFF!!

-I, NEVY NERVINE, WILL MAKE SURE YOUR SOUL ANSWERS TO ALL THE HIGHEST DEITIES OF THE TIMELESS VOID!!
I'm not crazy...

YOUR TIME OF JUDGEMENT HAS COME.
♥

Nevy ...?

NO...

NEVY!?

NEVY!!
What'd he say?
Eh-?
"Neh... vee?"

Gil... are you okay?
Nevy... please...

Please be all right ...

...

GRUMBLE
IN WHATEVER NEVY PLOTS, I DO NOT WISH TO PARTAKE. HEAR ME, BOY?
Who, me?! Of course I'm not.
W-we ought t-to check the oxygen levels, I th-think.
Y-you're not s-seeing things a-are you?

?!
W-w-what!?
I said I'm not seeing things.
Why doesn't anyone ever listen to me?

Nevy ...
... can you hear me?
Oh my gods-

Please say something ...
N-no way-!

Anything ...

splish

Is she ...
EX-N
EX-N

...is she gonna' be okay?
EX-N-12
EX-N-14

Sheesh, I'm still a little dizzy.
She really messed with my head there, for a minute-
Wow! That sea foam is sparkling!
It's like diamonds!

Does she usually melt into sea water like this?

No, Ava...
...

HEY!!
...she doesn't usually MELT!

But I know exactly why she did.

RRRIP
WHUH!?
WHAT THE HECK are YOU DOING?!
Something I should have done sooner.
...!
!!
WAIT!
UNghGH!! FINE THEN!!
FWIP
I GIVE UP!
I was only trying to help you, but I know when to quit.
You don't want to hear anything that bursts your fragile TITAN bubble!

You'd rather stay safe in your delusions!
Trying to help me?
I need to stop trying to help people who can't help themselves-
You're the one that needs help!
-people like YOU! And all the other brain-dead Followers.
What was that ...?!

You heard me. The followers DESERVED what they got back there.
They ALL deserved it!
And If I could go back in time and burn it all down again-

-I'd make sure to put YOU where I put your precious STRATEGOS:

SIX FEET INTO A BRIMSTONE GRAVE!

SMACK

CRACK

sniff
sniff

sniff
sniff

sob
I deserved that.

I'm sorry... I'll just...
...sob save myself from...
...sob from further embarrassment sniff...
and...

...
excuse myself
sob
...
...to rid you of my presence.
sniff
sob
sob

I-! She-!
N-nice, w-way to go, Gil.
It was an accident!
D-did you learn that from Titan, too?
Tch! What a cry-baby.

She was horrifying. You both heard her.
She...she threatened my life-!
Gil, it's okay, don't listen to him.
You had every right to knock some sense into her.
pat
pat
EX-N-22
EX-N-24

And if you hadn't, I would've at SOME point.
Personally, I'm just glad she didn't set everything on fire.

I'm sorry, I'm not usually like this.
I don't know what came over me.
Shh, don't be sorry.
I know how you feel, trust me.
I wasn't thinking and I just-
I couldn't bear listening to her any longer.
Her words were like knives ...
EX-N-24
EX-N-26

I say it serves her right for how she acted.
She was driving us all crazy with that stupid coloring book.
Maybe... but I'm still...
sigh
...so upset with myself today.
Between being labeled a criminal and...
...and that horrible book... how could I have let this happen? I....
I just can't wrap my mind around it.
-N-24
-N-26

And when she burst into water all over the floor- she just disappeared in an instant- I can't- I'm-
I'm so overwhelmed. I've never been this far from home on my own-!
But in any case, don't worry!
Hey, it's all gonna' be okay. None of this is your fault.
We just need to sit tight and stay away from her until we land, okay?
Ava was really makin' you see stuff for a while there, huh?
'Cause you weren't acting much like yourself ....

I'm sure once we get help from the Followers, they'll see that you're not a criminal.
And you'll get your life back to the way it was before.
I pray to TITAN that you're right.
...maybe we should just try and relax from here on out, huh buddy?
You know ...it's been a long day for all of us, so...
Yes, I think we should...
...I'm completely exhausted.
ping
ping

I th-think that's a good idea...
...c-considering we still have twelve hours 't-til we land ...
...t-twelve hours in Titan Time, th-that is.
EX-N-18
EX-N-20
EX-N-22
EX-N-24
EX-N-26
-N-12
-N-14

Wha-? Are you for real?!
Th-thats what the itinerary s-says.
I also can't seem to access any kind of c-coordinate control panel, either.
L-Looks like the paths of these kinds of cargo sh-ships are controlled remotely.

So? What does THAT mean?
L-look, see? Here ...
...it means we're s-stuck on board until w-we arrive at the port of-
-"Planet #1062, Excessa of Nimis, a p-planet governed in cooperation with TITAN Inc."...
"...List of m-main exports include f-fermented beverages, TITAN b-brand processed f-food products, and-"
Twelve HOURS!?
"-m-musical and artistic g-goods and entertainment."

Sheesh, twelve more hours stuck on this rattrap with a couple a' momos.
I dunno' if I'm gonna make it.
scratch
scratch
scratch
W-well it is a r-relatively short trip c-considering it's an unmanned f-flight.
S-so I'd say we got r-really lucky.

Yeah, "lucky", whatever.
...and until I can escape the fear of being engulfed in flames.
'Cause, like, it'll still be twelve more hours until I can shower...
POMF
AUTOPILO

What a rotten day. It doesn't feel real.
Like at any moment I'll snap out of it and be back at the dorms, copying homework.

You know.... I knew Ava was unstable and all but...
It was savage! you saw it, didn't you, Odin?
...I never thought she had it in her to level a city...with all those Followers inside?
The sheer destruction? That was all her, right?
When Gil and I were bookin' it I definitely saw a head on the ground-
Can we please stop talking about all that?
I really... really do not want to think about it.
Oh! Ah! Sorry Gil...
WARNING PERISHABLE

All I'm tryin' to say is...
...I'm glad we made it out intact.
That was the luckiest part of today-
H-hey, look.
N-nice.
TITAN
TITAN
HAPPY
GASP
OMYGOSH is this all FOOD?!
I th-think so-
YES! GIMME!!

Oh.
Great.
So we're stealing things now, are we?
I WANT THESE, TOO!

L-looks like this crate only has snack foods...
...I th-think?
I c-can't read this language.
But there's m-more than enough for all of us.
I'm s-sure no one will notice if a f-few snacks go missing.
slump

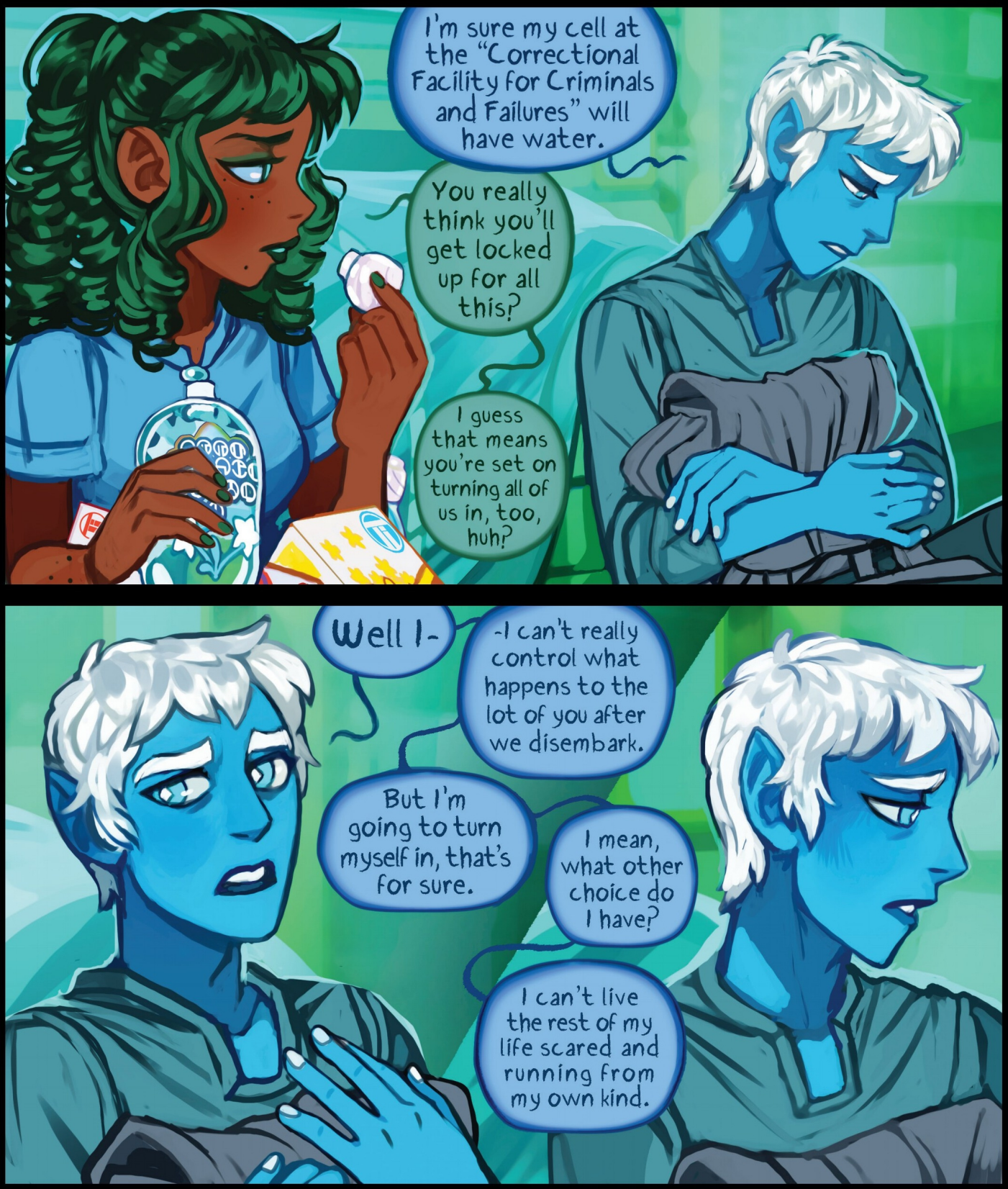
H-here, Gil.

L-look. It's Titan flavored.

No, thanks.
I would rather not add "stealing" to the list of charges against me.

POP

Gil... aren't you fhirsty?
Wer' gonna' be stuck here for a fwhile ...


I'm sure my cell at the "Correctional Facility for Criminals and Failures" will have water.
You really think you'll get locked up for all this?
I guess that means you're set on turning all of us in, too, huh?
Well I-
-I can't really control what happens to the lot of you after we disembark.
But I'm going to turn myself in, that's for sure.
I mean, what other choice do I have?
I can't live the rest of my life scared and running from my own kind.

Even if I'm not deemed a criminal, I'm still a "Failure" of the system.
I might as well turn myself in with integrity.
Maybe then I could perhaps recover my status as a Follower.
And, if I can't... then at least in the Correctional Facility I can do menial work for TITAN...
... despite being a failure.

My stomach is in knots just from saying all that out loud.
Ngh...I feel nauseous.

H-here.

T-take it.
You'll f-feel better if you eat.

!

Stop trying to get me into more trouble.

I'm n-not.
Sure.
I've n-never been t-trying to do that.

I'm n-not your enemy, you know ...

And y-
-you're n-not a failure.
Y-you can be happy without being a Follower of TITAN.
...

S-so if you n-need help running from the Followers...
!...

...or help hiding f-from them, I-
Sorry... but I'm not like you.
I refuse to hide from my troubles.

I'm going to face them like a true Follower.
It's what TITAN would want of me.
Tch.
I knew it.

D-don't know why I bothered asking...
...but at l-least I tried.

G-good luck, Gil.
HAPPY

You'll n-need it.

CHAPTER 3

?
done it this time
best friend's life
the only person
hesitation because
felt good
wouldnt help

is what you need to do is self destruct is what you need to do is self destruct is what you need to do is self destruct

Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

Fig. 5.

AH!

H-hey, Ava.
Y-you okay...

...back...
...there.

Uh, whoa...
...y-y-you've got blood on your hands, you know?
!!!!

OH YEAH?!
WELL WHO DOESN'T?!

Oh ...
wait ...
Euh- I'll just- l-l-leave you alone, then-
...you meant literally-

NO!
WAIT!

Come back...
...please.

Please stay...
...I don't want to be alone.

I, uhm-
!?
-g-got your book f-for you.

GASP
My book!
Thank you...
I tried to pick up your s-s-scarf but...
...f-for some reason it was a pile of dust.

Sheesh... Gil really did a number on this thing.
The bulk of it's middle is torn out.
Are all the pages even in here?
Well, all the vials are here so that's good, I guess...
...but still!
I was just trying to explain myself to him and- well-
-I mean why'd he have to go and destroy my book, huh?

Er, w-well... aside from driving h-him out of his mind...
...y-you did kind of...
...d-destroy his life today s-s-so...

Oh right...
...I did all of that, didn't I?
Plus we're on a T-Titan "Criminal Watch" list now, too.
So we n-need to be careful.
Ah...is... that...so...

I- *sob*
sob
-all of the awful things I did todaaay- *SOB*
Hey now, d-d-don't cry, it'll be okay!
-almost forgot about-
SOB
SOB
SOB
SOB
SOB
SOB

W-we'll be here for a while s-so m-maybe after we all unwind...
...you and Gil will have a ch-chance to work things out.
Also look, I f-f-found snacks!
sniff
sniff
S-see?

Th-this one's pink and orange, l-l-like you!
Heh...

So I guess we h-have a choice between blue -flavored...
...and b-blue-ish flavored.

BOTH!

You know...
I'm h-hungry, I really am...
b-but the longer I look at this thing ...

...th-the less hungry I f-feel.
Wh-What are these even made from?

I likeh thehm.
I mean tfey taste mphostly like sugar, but-

Mmaggie and I used to steal these. Tfhey tasted better than tfhe school food.
Ah, r-right... on that T-Titan re-education planet.

I c-can't stand this TITAN food-product stuff.
I m-miss eating real f-food...
...like... th-the crops my planet used t-to grow.
RRIP

Hey... about that...
...I have a question for you.

Our school was for kids relocated from planets bought by TITAN...
...and kids saved from Scavenger attacks...
... orphans with no homes...
And you have a home planet, right?

So if you have a place to live then what were you even doing at our school?

HAH! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!
Uhh- w-w-w- well...
WHAM

SHE'S GOT YOU THERE, HALFWIT.

M-my home... isn't much of a home.
Huh?
What do you mean?
Well there's h-h- hardly a civilization on m-my planet s-s-so-
-it's kind of d-difficult h-having to live there-

I guess there's not a lot of people where you live, hmm?
N-no...not r-really...n-not anymore.
So you don't have a school to attend? But you have a house to live in, right?
With your brother or-?

Well- w-we- don't really live in a house-
Your planet has its own spaceships, though, right?
That ship you were piloting didn't seem like a TITAN-brand ship.
Y-yes- I mean n-no- m-my brother gave me that vessel s-s-so-

Whaa? Really? Sorry, but-
-who gives their 16-year-old brother a ship-
-when neither of you live in a house?

HAAAH!!! EXTRAORDINARY!
OH THE GRAVE YOU HAVE DUG FOR YOURSELF!

LOOKS AS IF THE BETTER PART OF MY WIFE'S DEATH SLIME HAS COATED THE CHEMISTRY OF THAT BIPEDAL LAMPREY, AFTER ALL.
Y-you have a wife!?

Fwhat?
Wh-what!?
Uh-!
Wh-what I meant to say was-

L-listen Ava...
I'm...n-not a classmate of yours...
...I n-need to be honest with you.

... and I w-w-wasn't visiting your planet for schooling.
I had to lie about m-myself... and m-my age.
My sisters told me to say I was "s-sixteen" if anyone asked.
I actually only s-studied a little basic TITAN time to b-b-...

...blend
...in.

"Blend in"?
Y-yeah... It's...a long s-s-story. But I'm-
-I'm actually almost F-four-Seasons-old.
I'm about to turn Th-three and Three-Fifths, t-to be exact.
Wait-
-what?
P-please don't be mad-!

What are you trying to say?
I d-don't kn-...
....know m-much about TITANyears and... TITANtime wh-which...
...l-let's see... I can't r-really remember...
...I th-think there's 360 days in one artificial T-TITANyear?
It's 365 days-
Ah- th-365-
...b-both our days are 24 hours long...

... s-so then in TITANyears, F-four seasons would be- ....
... minus th-three TITANyears ...
I'm s-s-... 17-TITAN-years-old ...
... g-going on 18-TITAN-years.
I guess I wasn't far off f-from 16?
I'm n-not used to this s-system.

Okay, stranger, I got SO many questions for you...
...but first n' foremost-
-what in the UNIVERSE is a "see-zon"?
Uh, y-y-you know...
...s-s-s seasons?
The weather p-patterns of your planet...
...based on its p-position around the s-s-sun?
You mean like...
...a REAL sun?
In a sky with clouds and stuff?
SNIFF
SNIFF

Y-yeah!
Oh.
Our schooling planet wasn't in a system...
...so we didn't have a sun.
COUGH
GAG
Ah... r-right.
That planet h-had artificial light technology, d-didn't it?
COUGH
HACK
COUGH
COUGH
Yeah, these big light towers. They imitated a real sun...
...or at least that's what we were told.
I wouldn't know much about real suns, except that they're stars in the sky.
I s-s-see...

What's it like?
Hh-h-huh!?
Havin' a sun? With seezons? And weather? The kind that changes?
Uhh-!

W-well...usually every p-planet's rotation around a sun is different s-so the seasons are d-different.
For example... one s-season's length on my p-planet is...
...f-five of your artificial T-TITANyears and...
...it takes 20 TITANyears to complete o-one of our planet's cycles around our sun so-
Cycles? Wha-?
-our s-seasons might be a bit abnormal n-now that I th-think about it.
Sorry? I'm not sure I quite get what you're saying again.

Hm ...
H-how can I better explain it ...

Floating snacks!? They're floating away!
WUH!?
Qu-quick-! catch them-

Got 'em!!!

S-so let's p-pretend this is my planet.
Our people c-call it Aedinfell.

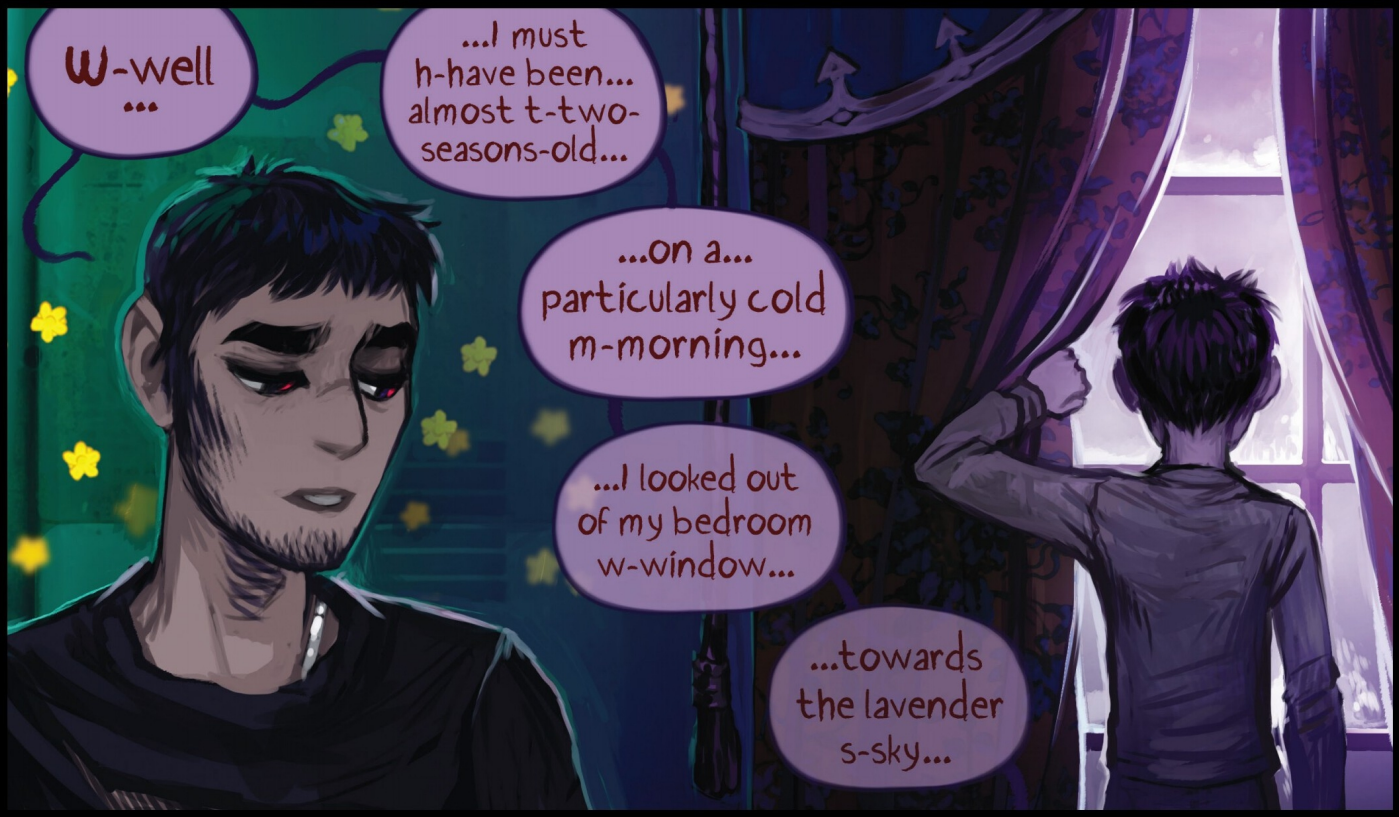
"Ay-din-fell..." what a pretty name!
And...
...h-here's our planet's sun.
It t-takes...
...twenty TITANyears for our planet t-to complete a rotation around our s-sun.
10
5
15
20
S-so... each of our four seasons is f-five TITAN-years long.

I was born at the s-start of the season you would call the h-harvest season...
...b-but we called it Gildhaust.
I c-can barely remember what it was like...
... except f-for all the animals w-we had ...
...and th- the fruits we picked in the orchards.
All the trees were s-s-sort of golden-colored.
Ah, wow! Are all the plants golden-colored on your planet?

N-no...w-w- well...the plants change with each season...so after Gildhaust-
-comes the "Season of Frost" er- w-we call it Frerinott.
Th-that's when everything is buried under ice and s-snow.
"Snoow?"
Snow? Uh... wh-when the rain freezes f- from the cold.
Oh! Rain... I know rain... I think.
All the plants die under the s- snow during this season....
...except for one kind of tree, c-covered in v-v-violet needles.
Needles? Like the ones on a pine tree? I've seen a tree like that before!
But it was green, not violet.

W-we had green trees, too but...
...only during the "Season of Rebirth" -er, we used to call it Sumerfrest, I th-think.
It's wh-when the ice melts and all the plants th-thrive again.
Though... I w-was never able to s-see it for myself...
...since our s-s-sun...
...ww-well...
...n-n-n-nevermind.

Huh? Wait! What's the matter?
No, go on! Now I'm curious...
...what was that about your sun?
Y-you p-probably don't want t-to hear about this kind of stuff.
Only i-i-if...
...you really w-want to know...
I do!


W-well ...
...I must h-have been... almost t-two-seasons-old...
...on a... particularly cold m-morning...
...I looked out of my bedroom w-window...
...towards the lavender s-sky...

...and in the place of our s-sun...
...was a sinister, black void.

The Season of Frost ended but our sun stayed the s-same.

Aedinfell became colder, ...the s-snow fell harder...

...and the dim light depressed us all.

The Season of Rebirth became a season of d-death...and...

...wars over resources began.

Life f-fought to adapt to the climate.

So instead of watching things grow...

...w-we watched them die.

I can s-still see the snow-c-covered fields...

...and all the different sh-shades of red.

And s-so...

...there isn't much left.

We d-did get lucky, in a way...

...already living in a h-habitable zone.

I f-felt guilty for it, when I was younger.

Though...th-these days our r-resources are dwindling.

Huh...

that's...

...awful.

....

I sh-sh-shouldn't have said anything.

TITAN is the one who should be s-sorry.

Th-th-there's only a few hundred thousand of us left-

-b-but he refuses to help us leave.

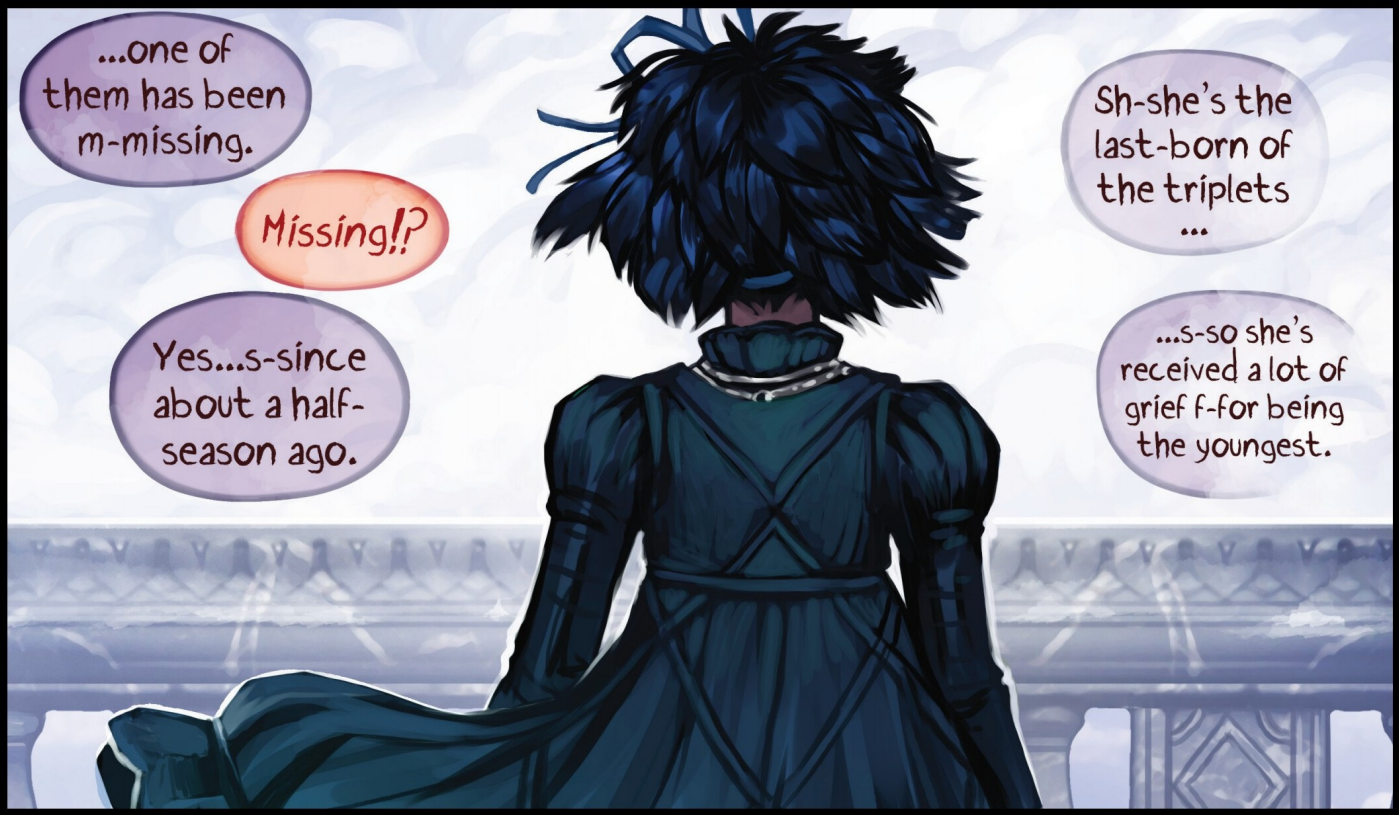
He's denied all our requests f-for vessels.

C-can't even send us adequate s-supplies.

Sometimes I think maybe he's responsible f-for our sun.

N-n-now we're trying to find a way to put life back into our p-planet...
...or at l-least I am.
I th-think my brother has resigned to t-total apathy.
yawn
pt
Apathy?
Euh.... h-he locks himself away at home...m-most of the time.
Ohh ...

I'm h-honestly just...
...waiting for him to k-kick me out.
So your brother is in charge, huh?
Didn't you say you have sisters, too, though?
Y-yeah... th-three younger sisters.
They're... barely t-two-seasons-old so...
...I don't think he would k-kick them out...
... but ...
"Buuut" ...?


...one of them has been m-missing.
Missing!?
Yes...s-since about a half-season ago.
Sh-she's the last-born of the triplets ...
...s-so she's received a lot of grief f-for being the youngest.

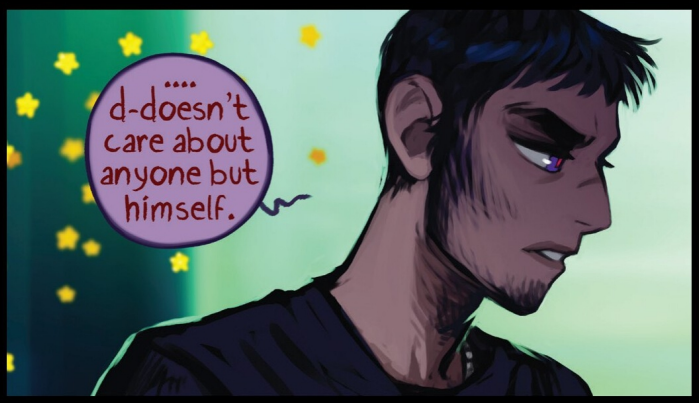
Her n-name is Magdalai...
...b-but we all call her "Magpie."
One day she was w-with us ...
...the n-next... no one could find her.

Just like that?
No notes left by her or ...anything?
Th-... there is this one thing.
I'm not c-certain about it, but...
...I th-think... my brother knows s-something about her disappearence.
Though... h-he refuses to tell me what he knows.
MY TWO MISTRESSES OF THE FLESH.... IN THE SAME PLACE AS I... IN DEATH?
HHNNH ...
THIS CANNOT BE A COINCIDENCE. THEY ARE PLOTTING AGAINST ME I CAN FEEL IT.
THEIR UNMISTAKABLE COSMIC FUMES OF PASSIONATE CON-TEMPT FOR ME ...
...FFFFILLING LIMBO LIKE A THICK FOG ...
HHHHHH HHHHHH HHHHH...

Ah- I'm boring y-you aren't I?
Nnh- No! Not bored!
I'm just... really sad for your family, is all-
-and, well, I don't have any experience with having one of my own, you see~
....so I don't feel very helpful right now. I'm real sorry.
I'm pretty useless when it comes to being helpful.
I d-don't think that's true....
It f-feels nice having someone t-to talk to.
Even if they only l-listen.
S-so you're already being h-helpful.
Heh!
Well I guess- euuhh-! I mean-
-if you say so!

Well in that case...I hope you don't mind me asking...
...why would your brother keep secrets from you like that?
Especially about something as serious as your sister vanishing?
Doesn't he trust you? Or care about finding her?

Olai...


....
d-doesn't care about anyone but himself.

M-my mother once s-said...
...he's missing the window to his soul.

Wh-when you look into his eyes...
...
it's like he's looking r-right through you
...
...like you're n-not really there.
S-so if I want any info out of him, I have to play h-his egomaniacal games.
Like...fun games?
N...n-no like...mind games.

For instance... r-right now I'm on a mission to "prove myself worthy of his time."

If I can c-complete it... he'll bless me with w-what he knows about Magpie.

I w-wish he cared for people th-the same way he cares for his ugly scavenger t-tech.

Scavenger tech...hmm? ...OOH!

So THAT'S what your ship was?! The one we crashed?

Ugh... y-yeah.

I thought it looked kinda' strange!

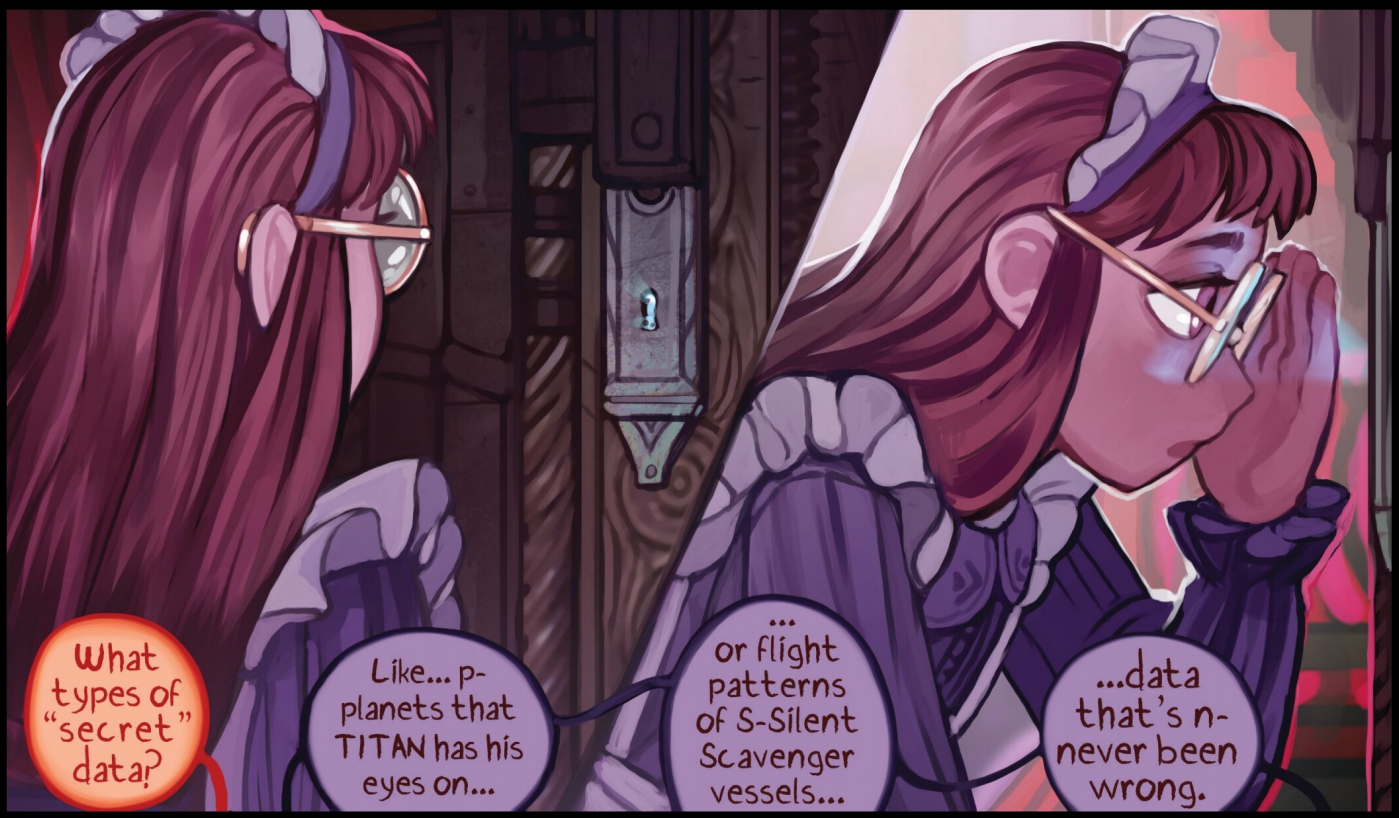
H-he and his friends made a hobby out of s-stealing Scavenger tech after they got their hands on a rogue vessel.

They modify m-most of it.

Communication d-devices litter the place.

The s-sight of it all would make me sick if it didn't k-keep the rooms so warm.

In any case, I don't s-see him much.
He spends all his time alone b-breaking into the TITANet.
I h-haven't witnessed it for myself...
...b-but he's bragged about a machine he's built...
...that lets him browse s-secret and elite data.
knock knock knock

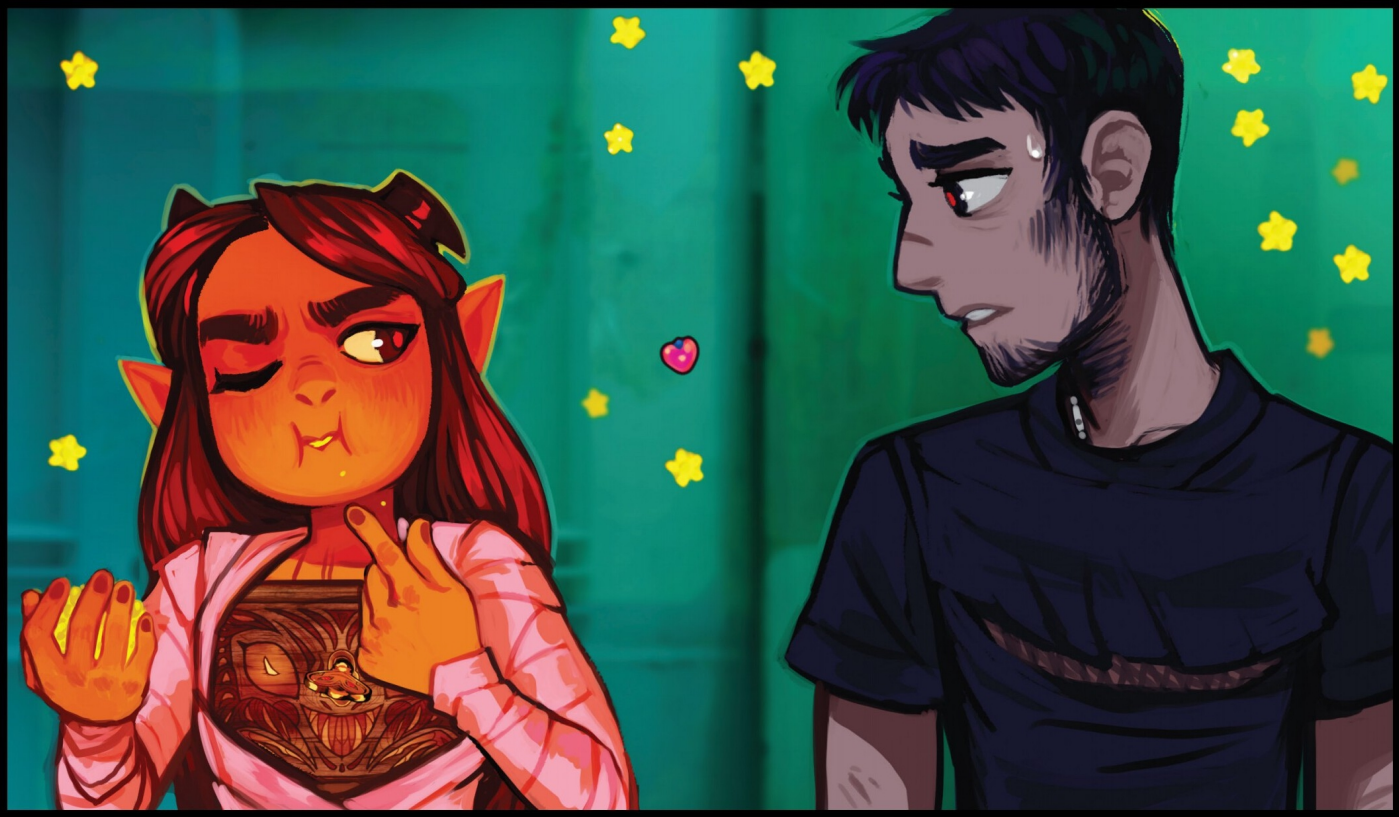

What types of "secret" data?
Like... p-planets that TITAN has his eyes on...
... or flight patterns of S-Silent Scavenger vessels...
...data that's n-never been wrong.

Sometimes... he and his friends will v-visit a target planet of the Silent Scavengers...
...just to see what they can enjoy b-before it's destroyed.

I really... despise him f-for it.

Weird! I didn't think the TITANet could even be accessed on non-TITAN tech.
Well that's what they told us, anyway-
-that the TITANet ran with special TITANware or whatever-
-and that we "couldn't hack into our grades if we tried."
But if it's Scavenger technology he's using ...
...then how is he accessing the TITANet?

Y-you... really don't *know*?
The S-Silent S-Scavengers were created by TITAN.
Ha,ha.
Very funny.
I mphight have believed your stories earlier but-
-it ain't gonna' work again!

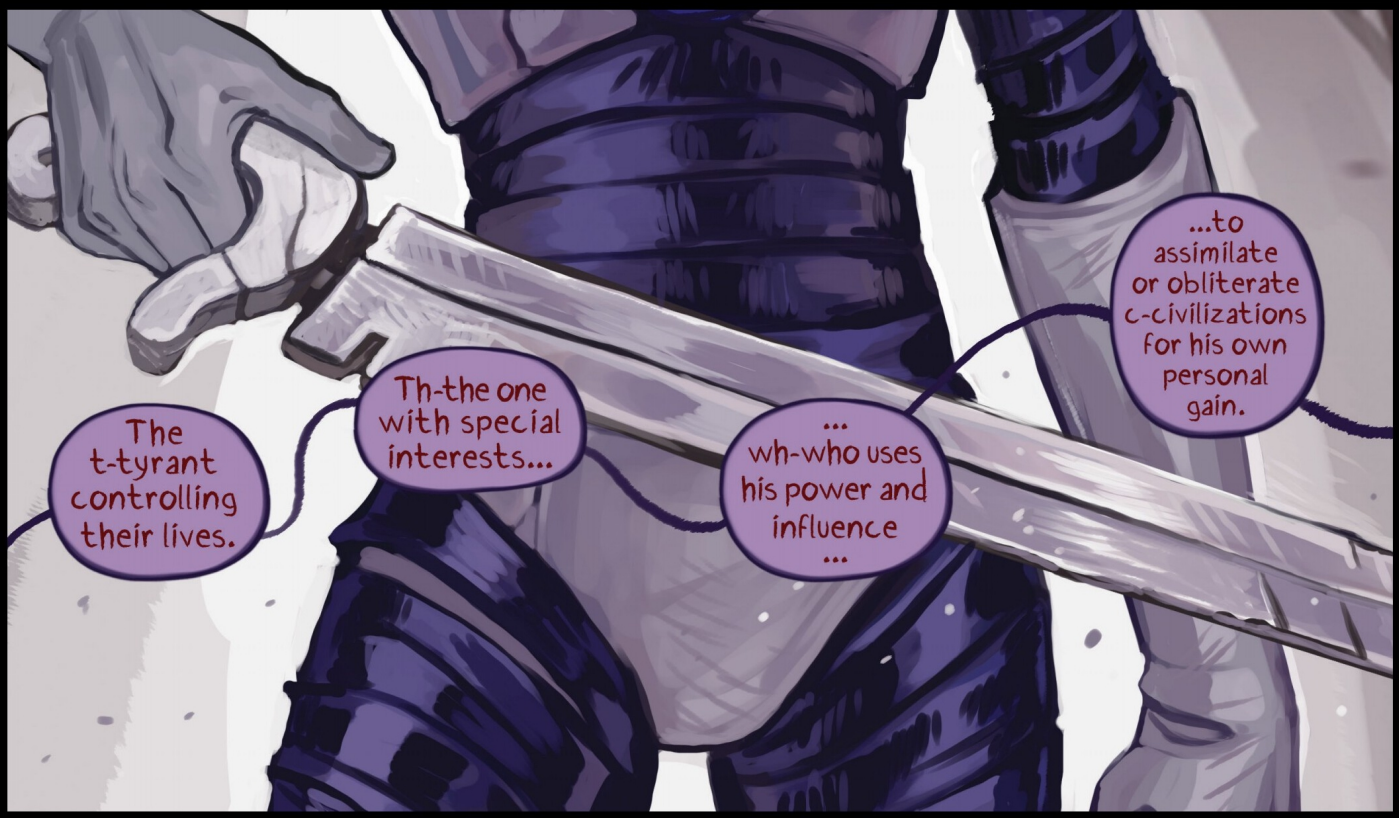


Waith- you're being serious?!
T-T-TITAN tech and Silent Scavenger tech are identical-
-in both their base coding s-s-s-softwares and their internal m-machinery~
-so Scavenger t-t-technology can only function while connected to the TITANet!

WUH?!
OH...MY... GUHH?! NUHH!?
But-! But THAT means-!
Th-though I guess you w-wouldn't know unless you've s-s-seen the tech on the inside...
...b-but whatever the Scavengers are, they're under T-TITAN's control.

TITAN destroyed our reeducation planet!?
Y-y-yeah-
TITAN destroys his OWN PLANETS?! BUT WHY!?
I'm c-certain the Scavengers are just a-
-s-sort of diversionary tactic.

Th-th-that is-to say ...
...I believe he fabricated the Scavengers t-to give his followers...
...an enemy to unite against ...
... and a common cause t-to empower them...
...t-to distract them from their real problem:


The t-tyrant controlling their lives.
Th-the one with special interests...
... wh-who uses his power and influence ...
...to assimilate or obliterate c-civilizations for his own personal gain.

The one they have n-no choice but to live under...
...and w-work for...
...and p-pray to...
TITAN ...
TITAN.

CALL: VEEVRA AVVRICE ...

....

VEEVRA?
STRATEGOS SIX SPEAKING. LISTEN-
-I NEED NEW WEAPONS: GUNS, BIG ONES, 20 METERS MINIMUM. HEAT RESISTANT. NITROGEN BASED-
-HOW FAST CAN THEY BE DEVELOPED? ...
...RIGHT. ...FINE.

I'LL BE THERE SHORTLY TO SEE IT THROUGH.
I ALSO HAVE IDEAS FOR THE PARADISE MACHINE MK. 2 PROTOTYPE SO HAVE YOUR ENGINEERS ON STAFF.
I HAD SOME... *ISSUES*...WITH THE LAST MODEL.

Huh ...
...I wonder if Wrathia was one of the first to be obliterated by TITAN...
Y-yeaah... s-s-so...
.... who exactly is this "Wrathia" that you k-keep mentioning?

MY WIFE!
Well like I said, she's ...uhm...
...never-mind.
I felt real crazy tryin' to explain myself earlier.
I don't want to scare you off.

You w-w-won't!
You're... not gonna' ditch me or anything?
N-no.
Even if I sound insane?
I s-s-s-swear.
Well... alright then.
...but don't say I didn't warn you.

I'm... also on a mission of sorts.
I tried explaining myself to Gil...
...and even to Maggie... twice now.
It's really difficult getting others to take me seriously...
...and I wouldn't blame you if you didn't believe what I have to say.
So, um... I guess I'll start with ...
...how I almost died in the crash today.

Instead of dying, though...
in my final moments...
...I made a "pact" for a new life...
...with this alien queen- errm, but she's dead now.
See? This is supposed to be her.
She calls herself "Wrathia Bellarmina" and she's absolutely miserable...
...not to mention bright and scaly with sharp, ugly teeth and horns-

L-Like these ones?
WUH!?!
HEY!? WHAT'RE YOU-?!
S-so they ARE real.

GASP
Are...these...
...horns?! I HAVE HORNS?!
Th-they almost look like the ones on the Goddess Statue.
The... "Goddess" statue...?
Y-y-yeah ...
...back at the HQ?

The one s-sticking out of the rubble, w-with the huge-
That's right... Wrathia's monument!
So they ARE Wrathia's horns! Oh no! Oh no!
-c-c-claws.

No wonder I'm so orange! And calloused-! I've become a horrid beast! Like her!
THE MOUTH ON THIS PARASITE IS DISGUSTING! HOW DARE SHE!!
WRATHIA IS COMPOSED ONLY OF SUPREME BEAUTY!!
TELL THE LEECH SHE IS TO RETRACT HER STATEMENTS-!
-FOR THEY ARE FALSE!!

M-m-mind if I s-s-s-
-smoke?
INFORM THE LEECH THAT WRATHIA IS THE SCORCHING EMBODIMENT OF MAGNIFICENCE!!
Huh? Oh! I don't mind, but, uh...
...would you, by any chance, happen to have a mirror?
N-n...
n-no... I don't.
BOY!? ARE YOU LISTENING?!
DO IT NOW!!!

SIGH Oh well... what was I saying?
S-something about a new l-life?
Oh! Right, the pact...
IGNORING ME ONCE AGAIN, ARE YOU?!
BANISHING ME TO THE OUTER EDGES OF YOUR PUNY HEADSPACE?!
YOU INSOLENT MAGGOT!!
flick flick
flick flick

DARE YOU DENY ME THE PLEASURE OF EVEN COMMUNICATING WITH MY WIFE? YOU WEAK AND PATHETIC EXCUSE FOR A LIFEFORM?
IF POSESSING YOUR REPULSIVE CORPOREAL FORM DID NOT EXPEL MY SOUL IN WRETCHED SICKNESS-
-I WOULD PUT YOU OUT OF YOUR MISERY RIGHT HERE AND NOW.
flick flick
flick flick
flick flick

flick flick flick flick
XH-
¥H8↑.
What's wrong?
Lighter not workin'?
It's f-f-fine.
Hm, well maybe I can help you out if I just-
-concentrate-Hnnreally hard-HHNNNN-
-ahah!
Would ya' look at that, It worked!
Here you go!
Th-th-th-...
thanks.
RRRAHRRGHH!! YOUR SPINELESS DISPOSITION IS MADDENING!!
MY SANITY IS DECAYING!!
I GROW SO WEARY OF THIS ATTACHMENT!! WHY CAN YOU NOT JUST END MY SUFFERING?!
UNSHACKLE ME FROM THIS MONOTONOUS MIND PRISON AND THROW YOURSELF INTO THE AIRLESS VOID!!!

WRATHIA WILL CONSUME YOU
NO ONE CAN ESCAPE THE FEROCI
OF HER COSMIC GRASP!!
So does the "pact" h-have anything to do with...
...that... th-thing on you?
NO ONE!! HEAR M
NOT YOU, NOT M
NOT ANY BEAST!!!

Huh?
OH!
Yeah... this thing ...uhhh...

I'm not sure if Wrathia put this here to cover my injury ...
... or if she put it here purely out of spite.
Probably a combination of both...
... either way it's embarrassing ...
Wwhh- what...is it, exactly?
knock knock knock

Well, it's a drawer... believe it or not.
Actually, it's a specific drawer.
A drawer that only Maggie and I knew about.
It was in an old desk... back on our re-education planet.

It was a desk in this junkyard we discovered while wandering around the school.
It looked like it used to be a place to grow plants, I think.
Flowers were still blooming despite the artificial light. It was pretty.
It was also full of trash...
... and strange objects that weren't made by TITAN.
Guess it's all gone now, though.

Whatever that place used to be, the TITAN school forgot about it.
Maggie and I kept it a secret and built a fort out of the junk.
We would sneak down there between classes and leave snacks for each other in the drawer of the desk.
MAGGIE

But this drawer isn't really the same as the snack drawer.
This one has Wrathia's ugly face on it.
I think it's kind of like a portal. It opens up, see?
She gave me the book through it.
And the glasses-
Th-these glasses?
HEY!
Why do you wear these th-things?
Th-they're really stupid-looking.

You c-can hardly even-
-s-see through them-
AHCK! OW! W-w-what the-?!
GIVE EM' BACK!
I g-got your pervert slime in my eye-!
They aren't perverted, got it!?
I need them in order to see Wrathia's warriors.
And it's MAGIC slime, just so you KNOW.
rub rub
Wh-w-w-warriors?
The ghosts of all the warriors that fought for her...
...or at least she told me they fought for her...
rub rub
Wrathia scattered the souls of her strongest warriors-
-all over the universe after TITAN conquered her empire.
So I need to find the rest of the ghosts like her-
-that are trapped in lifeforms like me.
That was part of our deal.
Wow...
a deal with a Goddess...
...that's... i-incredible.

You think I'm lying, don't you?
W-what? No I- I-
And why do you keep calling her a "goddess"?
You make it seem like she's from some sort of fairy-tale and she's *not*.
M-m-maybe she isn't one, but she reminds me of one-
-f-f-from tales my people have told.

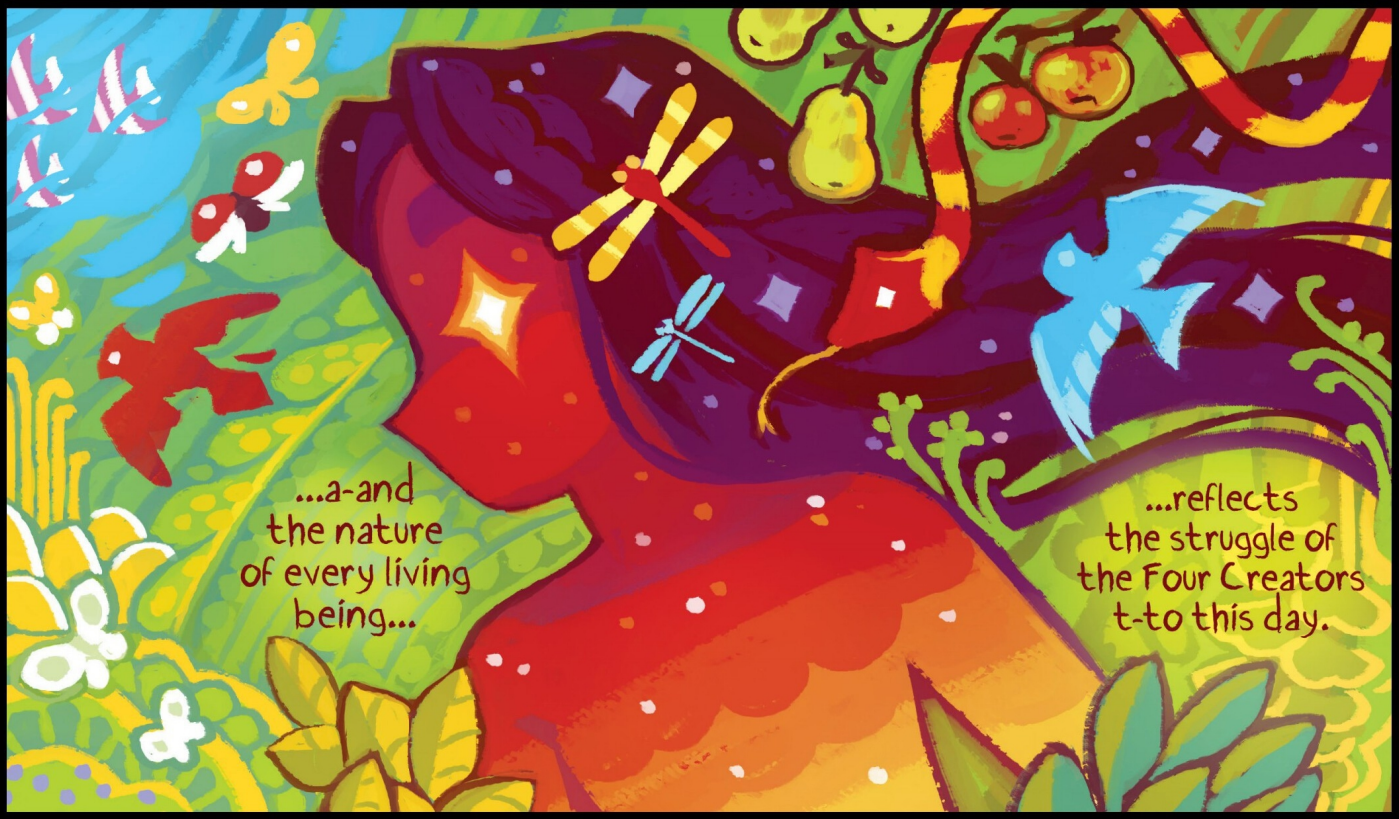
Before TITAN appeared ...
... before w-we could venture off of our planet ...
...our p-p-peoples believed in gigantic, other-worldly beings.
Th-they were depicted in old texts as...
...four s-supreme creators with overwhelming destructive powers.

Beings who were s-so big and powerful ...
...that there wasn't enough space in their realm t-to contain their fury.
They fought for space so ferociously ...

...that they exploded into h-hundreds of Goddesses and Gods...
... dispersing across the c-cosmos to create new domains.

Using the s-space they claimed, they fought in the names of their creators...
...and w-waged wars on battlefields that would become the source of all life.

S-so... the cycle of life and death...
...the b-balance of order and chaos...


...a-and the nature of every living being...
...reflects the struggle of the Four Creators t-to this day.

Huh! Sounds like the myths from before Titan ...
...the ones in old storybooks and stuff?
The tales were part of our religious b-beliefs.
Do you think those stories are what really happened?
Uhm... w-well ...
I didn't... f-for a long time...but ...then...

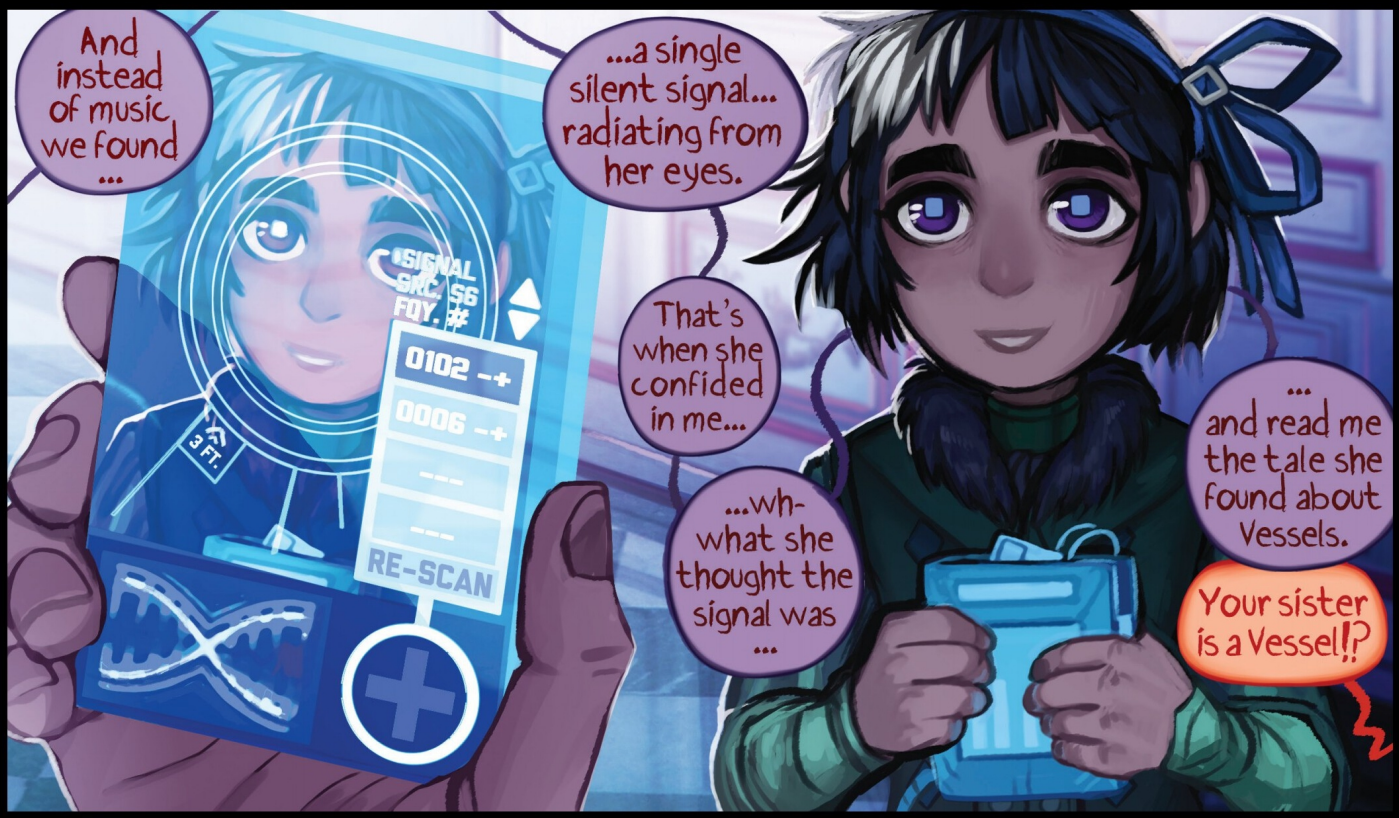
...my mind changed wh-when I found out that I'm ...
I...
...I m-m-mean...
...when I read a passage in one of our ancient t-texts about ...
"Cosmic Vessels."
What do you mean by "vessels"?

A Vessel was said to be a person who embodies a s-spirit of a Giant Goddess or God...
...someone with the power to bring g-great change to their surroundings ...
...change that only the giant, s-sacred beings were known to make.
That sounds like what Wrathia made me into: a "vessel" for her ghost...
Th-that's what I was starting to think.
I also thought... maybe a Vessel with th-that kind of power could bring change to our dying planet.
Maybe even save our s-sun.

That's what my mission is, actually: t-to bring back a Vessel, just one.
But... but...!
How did you know?
H-h-huh?
One powerful Vessel to p-prove to my brother that I'm not useless.
Is that why you needed Maggie!?
Y-yeah ...sigh

I had seen some strange changes in her as her friend and everything ...
...but not even I knew she was a "Vessel".
V-Vessels... actually have a s-sort of sound to them, did you know that?
A sound?
They emanate... particular types of f-frequencies ...
...types that are silent t-to our ears.

I d-discovered the sound by accident...
...r-right before Magpie disappeared.
She found a broken radio in my brother's s-scavenger trash...
...
and wanted me to help her f-find music with it.
We couldn't fix the radio but...
...I was able to salvage the radio card using h-her phone device.


And instead of music we found ...
...a single silent signal... radiating from her eyes.
SIGNAL
0102 -+
0006 -+
3 FT.
RE-SCAN
That's when she confided in me...
...wh- what she thought the signal was ...
...
and read me the tale she found about Vessels.
Your sister is a Vessel!?

Sh-she was sure she was one. So sure, that sh-she told Olaí.
Olaí was adamant that w-we only broke the device ...
...that Vessels weren't real and t-told us both to grow up.
But then I...had a gut feeling...
...that her new-found frequency was special ...

Are you also a Vessel, Odin!?
Does that second signal mean you have one, too?!
Odin?

Does this mean you also have a inbisable Vessel friend?
Is he nice like mine!?

N-no... he's n-not nice-
Wah!! You know what this means?!
Now we can tell Olai how we're BOTH Vessels-
-and this time he'll HAVE to listen-!
D-D- DON'T!!

D-d-don't tell Olai anything about m-me, g-got it?!
Huh!? Why nooot-?

It's f-fine for a k-kid t-to have invisible friends, Magpie...
...but I'm n-n-n not a kid, got it?
Olai th-thinks I'm crazy enough as it is...
...you don't want him to k-kick me out, do you?
No, but-!
Then don't go telling him that I'm a V-V-Vessel, okay?
But-!
P-please Magpie...
...sigh...
...Okaay...

HELP ME...
HELP ME
ODIN...

Wow, I wonder which of Wrathia's warriors Magpie is paired with!
Was she the only Cosmic Vessel you came across?
Yeah ...
... at least on Aedinfell.

Then one night... w-when the snow stopped falling and the clouds h-had parted...
...f-from a whole bunch of Cosmic Vessels...
... Magpie and I pointed the device towards the s-sky...
...silently s-singing among the stars.
... that's when we discovered even stronger s-signals...

M-Maggie's signal was one of the strongest on the list.
So I thought sh-she would be pretty easy to track down, and I was right!
But w-when I finally found her...
...f-f-fell apart.
... my mission k-kind of ...
Boy... it sure did.
The next signal is three circles and then one that looks like a "ᒋ" only it's backwards!

I h-had hoped... along with proving myself to Olai ...
...that in my search I would discover Magpie's signal again...
... or maybe even find her without my brother's h-help.
M-most of all I just want ...t-to make my parents proud of me...
...well... in s-spirit, at least.

Anyway, it d-doesn't matter now ...
...s-since the device is broken.
That's the Vessel device?
Urhg... that was my fault, huh?

Well, you don't really need it anymore!
I d-don't?
I'm a "Cosmic Vessel" aren't I?
I could help you out!
...!

Though my powers would probably just destroy your planet a lot more, heh.
But we've still got one lens on the glasses!
I could help you find a bunch more Vessels! All the ones in this book!
Ones with better powers than mine!

Y-y-you would ...
...h-h-help me ...just like that?
Yeah, why not?
It'll be easier if we work together, right?
Although euhh...
...I might need help with a small task...in return.

I still gotta' fulfill my half of the pact-
You n-need to find her Warriors, right?
Er, not just find them-
Whatever it is, I'll h-h-help you.
What do you n-need to do?
I'll d-do anything-

I agreed with Wrathia that I would uhm...
...that is, I would need you to help me...
...take down...
...
TITAN?

T-t-t-... take down ...TITAN?
Th-that was a joke, right?
No...

W-w-what!?
Are you s-s-sure?
Th-that's ...that's insane!
Yeah...well... welcome to my nightmare.
Scritch scritch

Is that even p-p-possible? To take down T-Titan?!
Uhh... I think... so...
W-Where in the universe does he even live?
Is TITAN even a living b-being!?
Well, now I'm not so sure, when you say it like that!!
You need t-to back out of this pact!
scritch scritch

Don't you think I want to?
I can't!
I need to complete it or else I'll turn into some type of monster ...
...not that I don't already look like one.

Especially with this drawer on me!!
It's repulsive! And ITCHY!
And giving me splinters in all the wrong PLACES!!

H-have you tried taking it out?
Y-your drawer?
Taking it out?
Like... removing it?
Y-yeah ...
I...
...didn't even-
-think to try.
R-r-ready?
SQUEEK
Hah! It worked!

W-w-what...is that?
Euhhh... that's a good question!
I can't really see it from this angle...

What's it look like in there?
Looks like ...it's just full of s-stars.
Stars? That's all?
S-stars... s-some cloudy stuff, and...

... a shadowy f-figure?
A what!?
No, wait, n-never-mind...
...it's... only clouds ...I th-think.

I guess this must be a window to Wrathia?
Though now it has a force field or somethin'!
Oof! I hope we didn't break it.
Ah... sh-shoot really?
tink
tink

Th-that's strange...

I c-could have sworn it looked-
h-hollow.
!?!?

THAT SCENT!
SNIFF SNIFF
CRACK

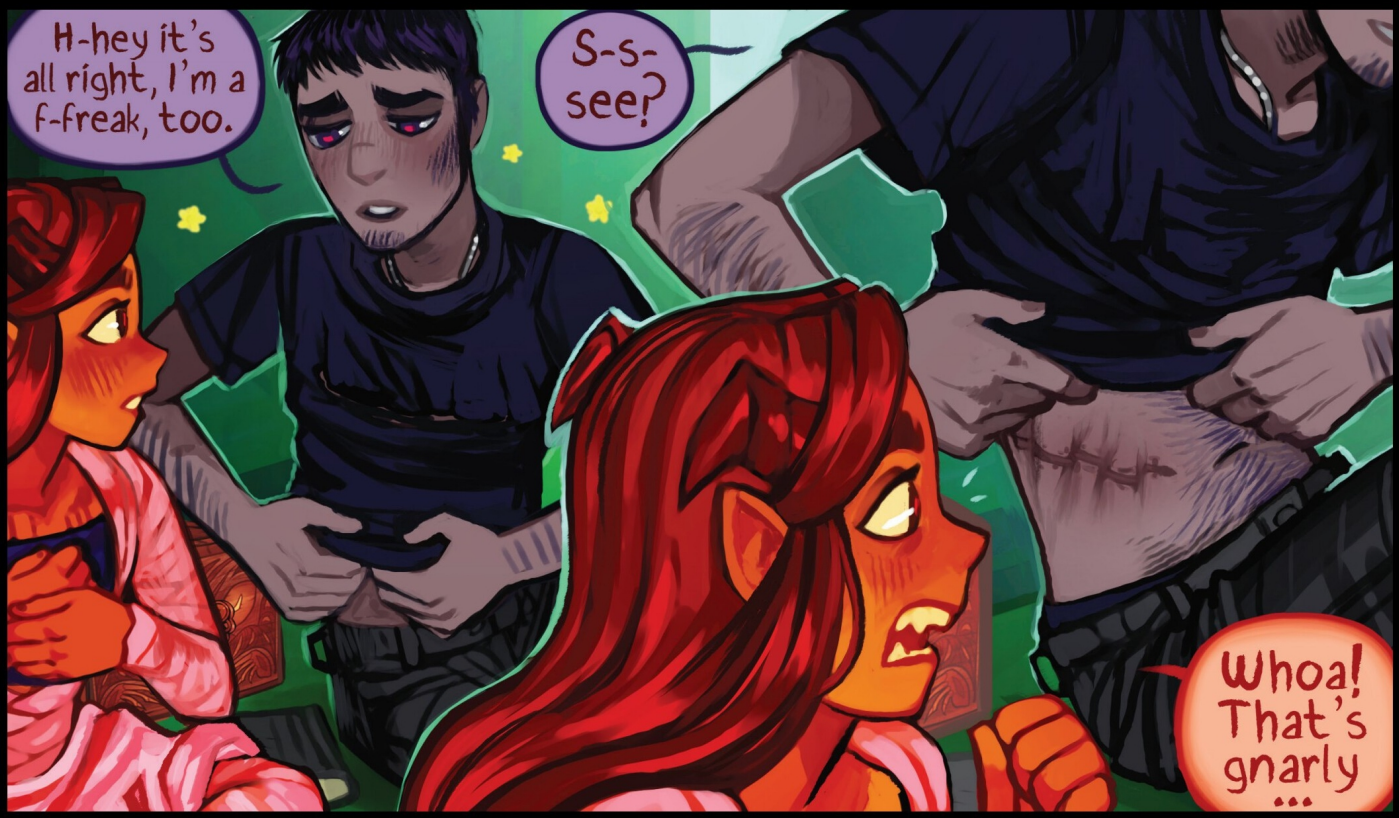
PEDRI?
IS THAT YOU!?

NO! NOT AGAIN-!!

EH?!
WAIT... THAT'S NOT PEDRI...
WHAT IS GOING ON OUT THERE!?

YeEeEeEe!
OH GODS! S-S-S- I-I- d-didn't- th-think-
-that w-would happen-

Well...that was... embarrassing.
I didn't h-h- h-hurt you, did I?
N-no! I'm fine, really!
This portal just makes me feel like a freak.


H-hey it's all right, I'm a f-freak, too.
S-s- see?
Whoa! That's gnarly ...

Did that hurt or what?!
It almost looks like a zipper!
Y-yeah... I had to s-sew it up by m-myself.
It k-kind of does, doesn't it?
How'd you manage to get that scar, anyway?
H-how? W-well... I was...
... a b-bit over two-seasons-old...when I-

...I f-fell.

You "fell?"
I was s-s-somewhere I w-w-wasn't supposed to be and I fell.
Oh ...

I have a s-scar on my head, too.
But you can't really s-s-see it unless you look for it.
Huh!

I guess we're not much different from one another, 'ay?
Hmm... m-maybe we aren't...

...of course... that m-might also make you a "Huge Nerd."
Ah...right... I said that... didn't I...

I'm sorry for all the mean things I said to you, Odin... I was stressed out n' all.
It's okay, I also s-said a lot of stupid things.
Let's just call it w-water under the bridge.
Plus, you can make it up to me in Vessels, r-right?
Eh?
S-since... we're kind of like a t-team now and all?

A team!?
You mean you'll help me?!
Well I c-c-can't promise we c-can take TITAN down ...
... but I'm not opposed to t-trying.

sniff
Really...?
Y-yeah!
It's about time s-someone stood up to him.
M-might as well be us, r-right?
sob

I~ SOB I can't~ SOB belieeeeve it~! SOB~
Wh-what's wrong? Are... are you c-c-crying!?
Wh-wh-why are you crying!?
I s-s-said I would help you-!
I know~ sob I'm just so~ sob happyyy~ sob
SOB Thank youuuu~! SOB
I-It's-it's f-f-f fine!

Gil, look at this bottle!
It's made out of candy!

Tch...

Uhm... how are you doing, Gil?
What're you up to, there?

I'm praying.
Praying?
To TITAN?
Yes.
What for?

For...peace of mind.
I've never felt so scared ...and alone.
Praying to TITAN for answers usually makes me feel better, but-

...right now...
VOID
...
it doesn't seem to be working.

I know how you're feeling. You just have to figure out a way to ...
...put all your worries to the back of your mind for the time being.
That's a bit difficult to do while were stuck in this cold container.
I bet this is what living at the correctional facility feels like.

Eheh, yeah ...well-!
Don't think too hard about the future okay?
All we can really do is focus on the "now".

Maybe we should...
...think of something fun to do!
Something fun...?
...
Yeah! To lighten the mood or ...
distract ourselves?

...

Ah! Gil! I have an idea!
...I think I know something fun we could do ...
Oh... really...
...and... what would that be?

Maybe... we, um...
... we could ...
... get to know one another before...
...we forget about this place for a while and um... you know...

...
make out
...
or...
...something like that?

...?

Sorry to have to go and ruin your fun idea ...
...but I'm afraid we can't just make out of a moving craft, like that.

I mean, for TITAN's sake, Maggie...
...we're in the middle of space.

We don't even have the proper suits for that kind of environment.

.....

Ah ha...you're so right, Gil...
I don't know what I was thinking.
I'll say.
I must be really tired!

Ah-
H-h-hey
I-

Whoa-! Y-y-your face!
-!?!

What ABOUT it?!
Wuh-l-l-l-
You got an issue with my face, PAL?

N-no n-n-nevermind ...
...m-my eyes were p-playing tricks on me.
Well did you actually need something or are you just here to stare at us.

I c-c-came to say-
-that we were thinking about getting s-some sleep, s-so...
...I'm t-turning down the lights.

EX-N-14
You both should to try to s-s-sleep, as well.
Oh... a-and...
...Gil...

VOID
I've been m-meaning to ask you something.
It might be s-sort of a s-strange question but...

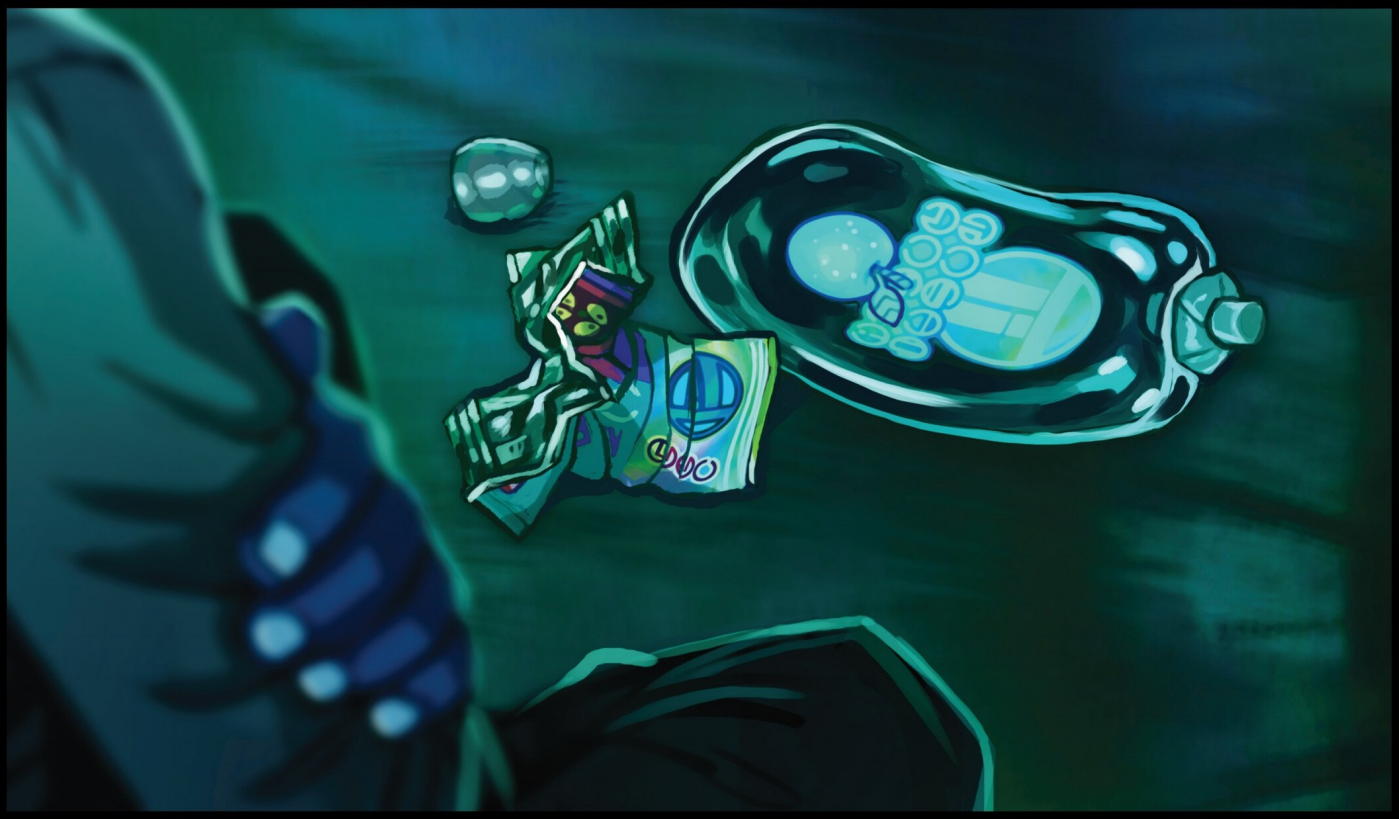
...
h-have we...
...m-met each other before...
...
i-in the past?
sritch
sritch

....
VOID

Met each other...?
You mean ...before today?

...
No...I don't think we have.
I would have recognized you sooner if we had.
You're not even a Follower of TITAN.

I've only ever known other Followers.
Hm. R-right.
R-rest well, then.



Uoouh my stomach huuurts.
From all the s-snacks, I bet.
But they tasted so gooood.
TITAN strikes again.

Ah well.
At least now I have all this trash to sleep on top of.

Can't wait to ...
yawn
...pass out and forget today.

H-hey ...
... Ava?
Hmm?

Gil is k-kind of s-strange, don't you think?
He's a bit strange ...
Yeah... th-that's true.
...then again... most of TITAN's Followers seem kinda' strange.

Th-though ...
...I guess I was just th-thinking about...
...how strange it was to f-find him living all alone on that planet...
... isolated, l-like he was?

You th-think that's how most Followers live?
In the middle of n-nowhere, I mean?

Ava?

It's all right, Odin...

...ᚼᚻᛖ ᚹᛟᛋᚾ'ᛏ ᚻᚢᚱᛏ ᛃᛟᚢ...
...she won't hurt you...

ᛉᚠᛚᚢᚷᛖ ᛞᛟᛗᛇ ᛞᚢᚲᚺ ᛏᛟ ᛗᛋᚷᛒᚲᚺ ᛟᚢᚷ ᛚᛒᛟᛗᛇ...
Nature does much to enrich our lives...
...ᛒᛏ ᛞᛗᛇᛗᚷᛟᛗᛇ ᛟᚢᚷ ᛚᛟᛟᛗ ᚠᛋᛞ ᚷᛗᛇᛝᛗᚲᛏ.
...it deserves our love and respect.

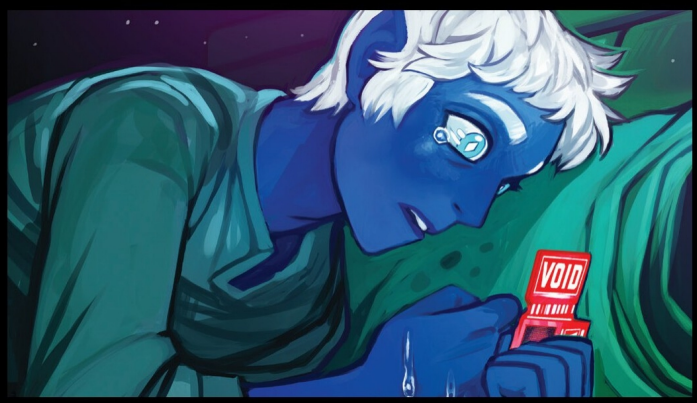
VOID
VOID
Please change back...

VOID

VOID

VOID

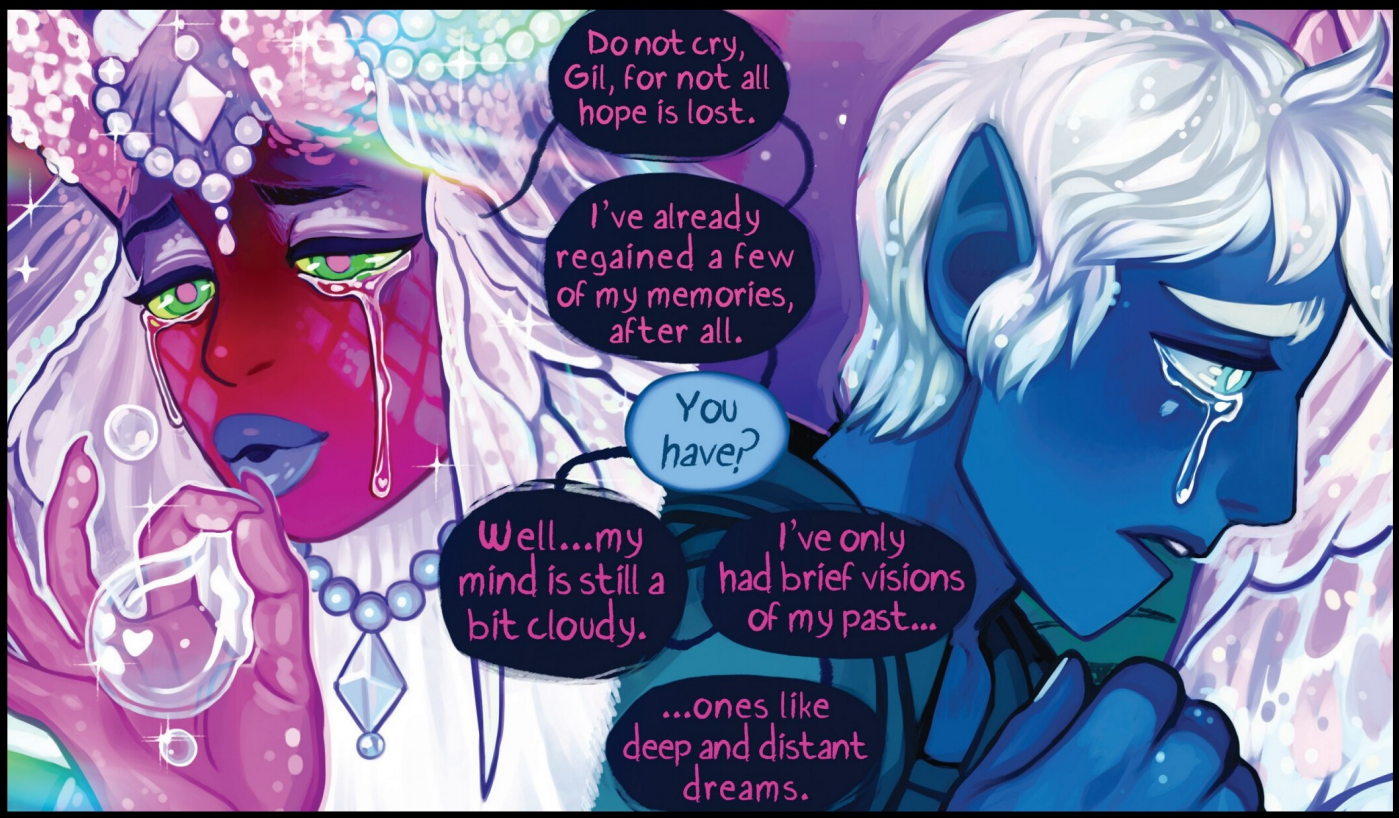
There... there...
VOID


VOID

Nevy! You're okay!
You're still with me, after all!
Oh, Gil...
...you know that I would never abandon you.

I thought that I would never see you again...
...that I had lost you forever!
I'm so glad you're still here, Nevy.
I was afraid you had been hurt.
Shhh... rest.
I can't rest ...
...I'm too frightened of our future.
I've only ever lived by the teachings of TITAN.
I did... everything I was told to do...
...everything a great Follower was supposed to do...
...and I've still turned out a failure. A criminal, even!
I should have listened to you...
...when you warned me about... trusting these strangers so easily.
But... I didn't... and now-
-I can't stop thinking about...the horrors I've witnessed ...
...at the hands of that... that...
...that creature I was stupid enough to help.
And I've lost ...
... everything because of it.

Worst of all...
...
I've failed you, Nevy.
I'll never get to ask TITAN your questions ...
...I'm so sorry.


Do not cry, Gil, for not all hope is lost.
I've already regained a few of my memories, after all.
You have?
Well...my mind is still a bit cloudy.
I've only had brief visions of my past...
...ones like deep and distant dreams.

But I do know ...
...I was a Priestess in my past life.
I could speak with ancient entities...
... in realms beyond TITAN's.
I was also a Princess. I was powerful ...and loved.
Really? A Princess?
How marvelous that must have been!

So you needn't worry about our future any longer, Gil.
You've worked so hard for us already.
Dry your eyes and rest.♥

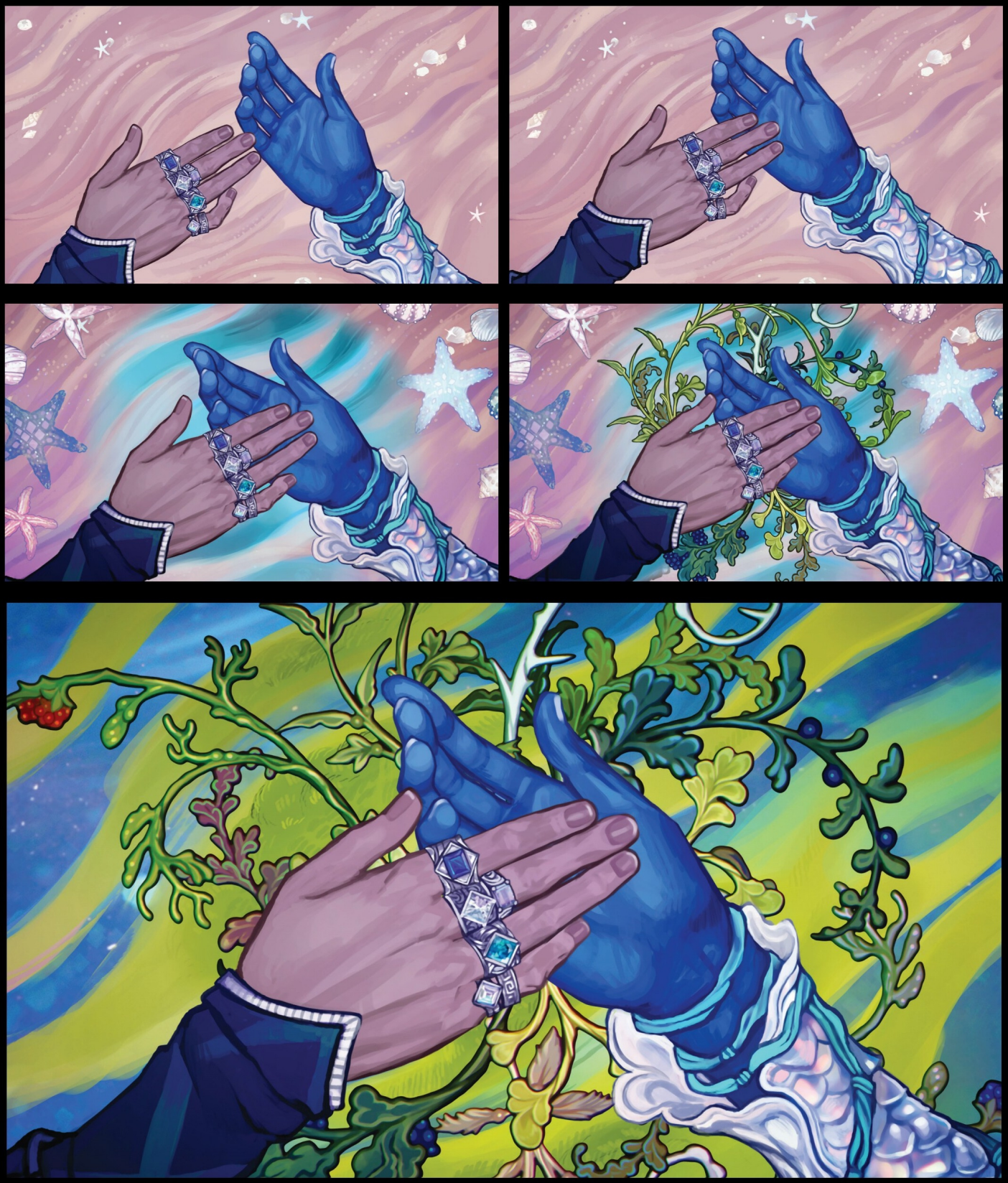
Promise me that everything will be all right?
I promise ♥ ...

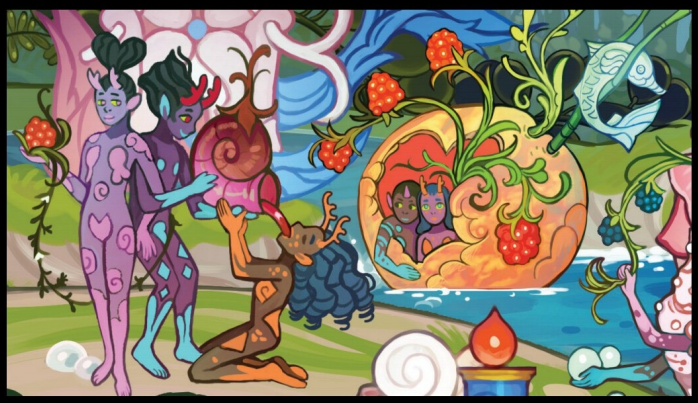
...sleep, now...
...sleep... and know ...
... that I will take care of you from here on out ...

...and together we will reclaim ...
... all that we have lost.

Rest assured ...

...that I will bring us to Paradise♥





"Thank you for

s-saving my life"

Chapter 4

This is NOT good ...

That statue... that was left by Scavengers ...euh, right?

I... I'm not sure!

I never dreamt a disaster like this could happen at our Headquarters, of all places!

Man... I hope most of the Followers made it out all right.

I bet everyone on TITANchat is blowing up about this.

Well...there goes my job security...
...and my apartment... all my stuff is toast.
Uhg, and to think I still owe money on all those new courses I took.
Guess I'm pretty lucky that my mom is always begging me to live closer to our home planet, heh.
I bet she'll be super stoked to find out I'm moving back in ...
GEV
SIIIIGHHH

Ah...I wish I had that kind of safety net ...
...guess I'll just dip into my savings and job hunt at a different TITAN facility ...
...though... I wonder if the other recruitment agencies have also been...torched.
FIRA

...
...
FIRA

Uhm-!
Say, Gev...

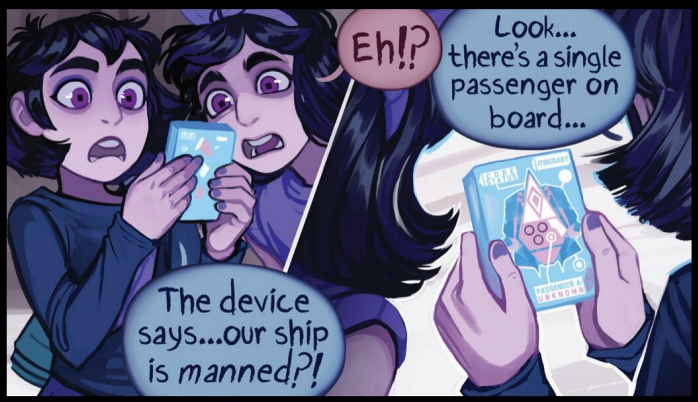
...our planet is in a pretty safe TITAN-owned system...
...you can come stay with us for a little while, if you like!
Er- I mean- until you sort out your living situation, that is~!
Whuh- really?
GEV

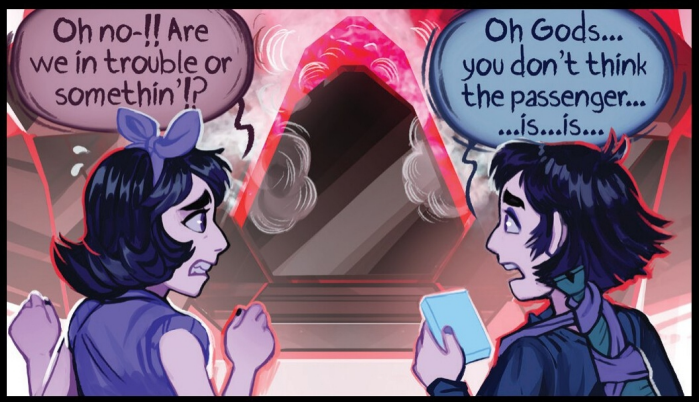
Are you sure your family won't mind?
It'll only be for a little while, right?
eehee~

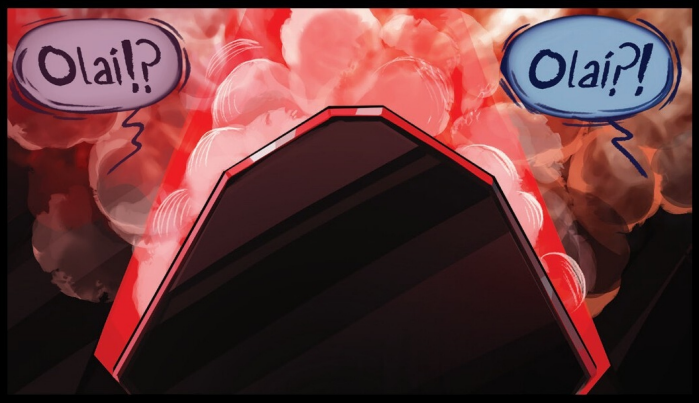
WHRRRR
Look, Raven, here it comes ...
Sheesh! It's about time!
I was startin' to think that we'd be here all night...

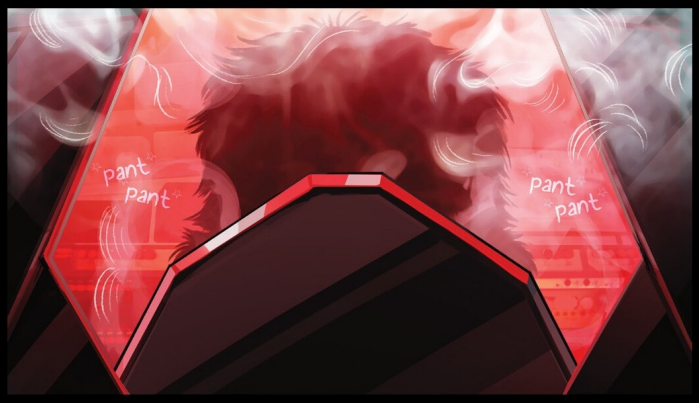
Wow, this must be one of the new models!
How the heckie does Olai snag all the good stuff so quickly?

Hhn? Hey... wait a minute, what's this?
I thought this ship was on auto-pilot?
HSSSSS


Eh!?
Look... there's a single passenger on board...
The device says...our ship is manned?!
ITINERARY
PASSENGER & CARGO


Oh no-!! Are we in trouble or somethin'!?
Oh Gods... you don't think the passenger... ...is...is...


Olai!?
Olai?!


pant pant
pant pant

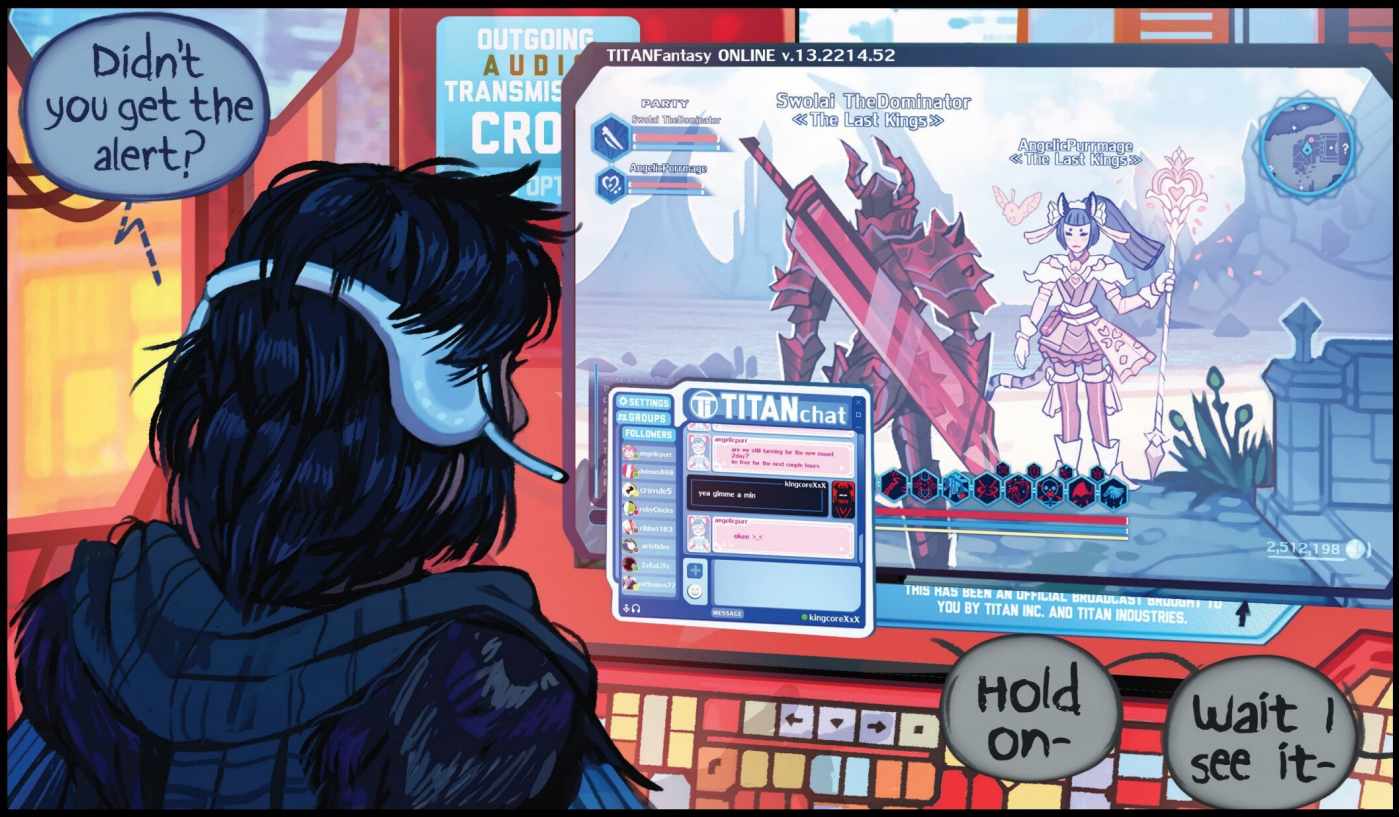
Oh...
It's just Ulfbjorn ...
pant pant pant
pant pant pant

bwoof
I guess it is on autopilot after all.
Should Ulfbjorn be flying around like this?
Good boy, Ullfy! You did it!
Good doggie!

EW!
slobber
Hm...?
BEEP
INCOMING AUDIO TRANSMISSION:
OLAI
ACCEPT?
MORE OPTIONS
BEEP *BEEP*
BEEP *BEEP*
Why do you smell like GARBAGE!
Olai ...

H-hello? Olai- I mean-! Your Majesty?
Crow... Did you get the ship yet?
Yes, the one you sent with Ulfbjorn?
Ulfbjorn?! I asked the Council to send one of their own to meet up with you...

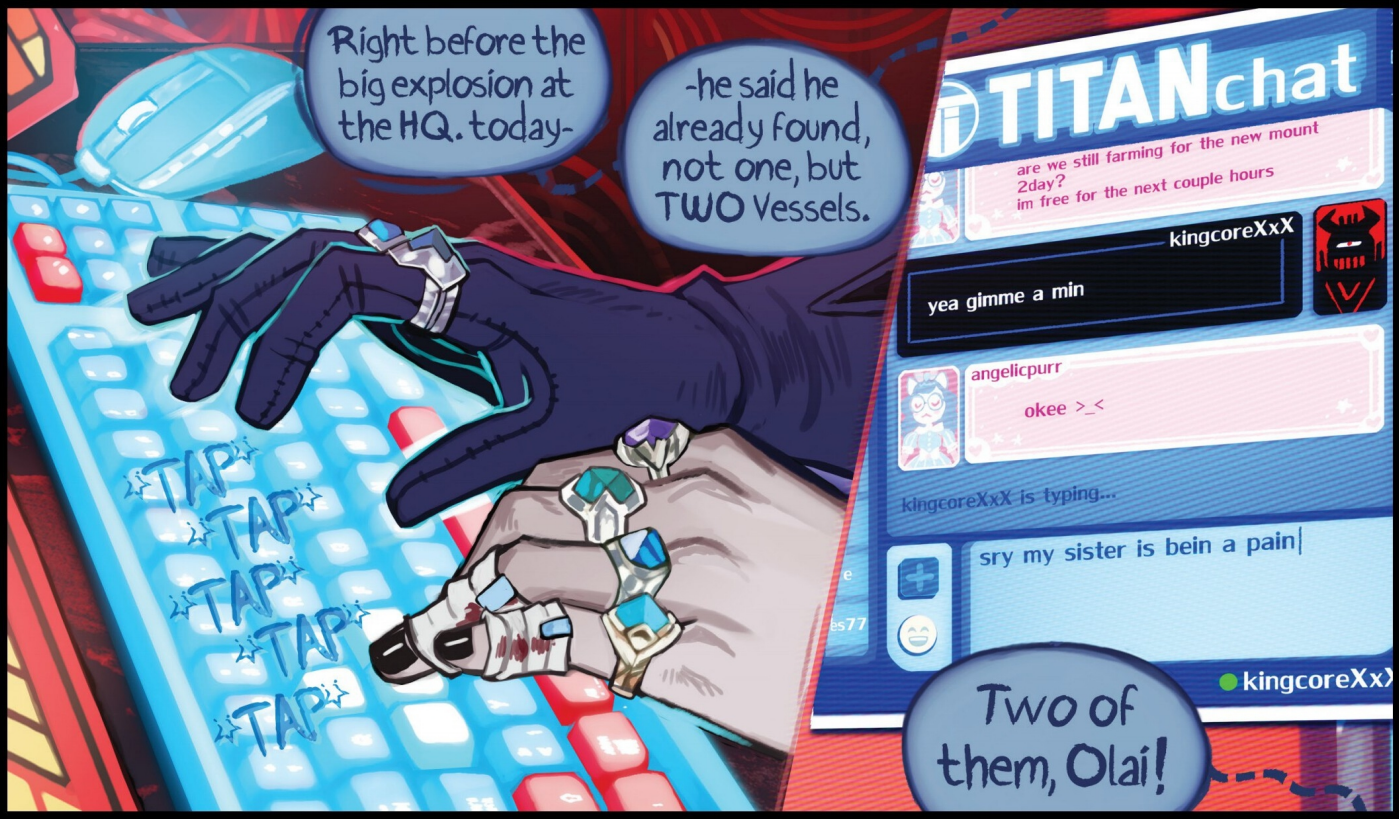
I guess they sent Ullfy?
Lazy good-for-nothings-
By the way, Your Majesty... have you heard yet?
Heard what...
Odin made it onto a TITAN hit list...
HE WHAT?!
He's a wanted criminal now!


Didn't you get the alert?
OUTGOING AUDI TRANSMIS CRO
TITANFantasy ONLINE v.13.2214.52
PARTY
Swolai TheDominator
AngelicPurrmage
Swolai TheDominator
≪The Last Kings≫
AngelicPurrmage
≪The Last Kings≫
TITANchat
SETTINGS
GROUPS
FOLLOWERS
yea gimme a min
kingcoreXxX
2,512,198
THIS HAS BEEN AN OFFICIAL BROADCAST BROUGHT TO YOU BY TITAN INC. AND TITAN INDUSTRIES.
Hold on-
Wait I see it-

OUTGOING AUDI TRANSMIS CRO
TITANFantasy ONLINE v.13.2214.52
PARTY
Swolai TheDominator
AngelicPurrmage
Swolai TheDominator
≪The Last Kings≫
AngelicPurrmage
≪The Last Kings≫
CRIMINAL ALERT BROADCAST WARNING:
LIFEFORMS WANTED FOR CRIMES AGAINST TITAN
MARVERDE, GIL
ACCOMPLICE A
ACCOMPLICE B
ACCOMPLICE C
CONTACT YOUR LOCAL OFFICIALS WITH WITH ANY INFORMATION LEADING TO THE WHEREABOUTS OF THESE INDIVIDUALS.
THIS HAS BEEN AN OFFICIAL BROADCAST BROUGHT TO YOU BY TITAN INC. AND TITAN INDUSTRIES.
.....
.....

OH MY GODS!?
LOOK AT THAT MUG SHOT!!!
AHAHAHaha HAHAHAHA HAHAHAHA!!
CRIMINAL ALERT
LIFEFORMS WANTED FOR CRIMES AGAINST TITAN
MARVERDE, GIL
ACCOMPLICE A
ACCOMPLICE B
ACCOMPLICE C
CONTACT YOUR LOCAL OFFICIALS WITH WITH ANY INFORMATION LEADING TO THE WHEREABOUTS OF THESE INDIVIDUALS. THIS HAS BEEN AN OFFICIAL BROADCAST BROUGHT TO YOU BY TITAN INC. AND TITAN INDUSTRIES.
Who are those goofy idiots he's with!?!
How did he manage such a FEAT!?! I'm losing my damn MIND!!

Welp! That's it then, isn't it?
He's gone. He's on his own now! He gets NOTHING else from me-
Really!? We're just gonna cut him off like that?
Uh, yeah, we are-!
But Olai- Your Majesty- you know what he told us?
When we tried to bring him home?

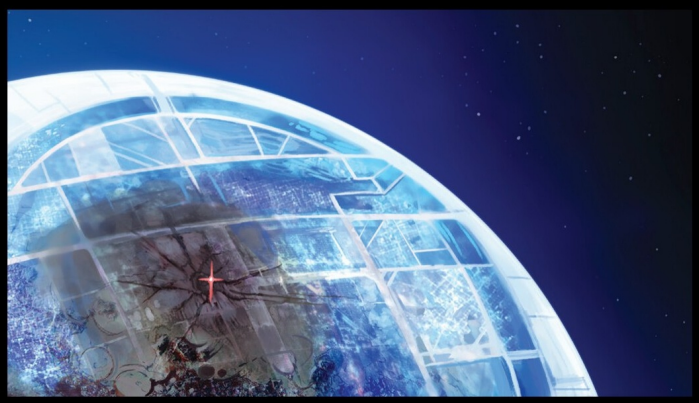

Right before the big explosion at the HQ. today-
-he said he already found, not one, but TWO Vessels.
TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP
TITANchat
are we still farming for the new mount 2day?
im free for the next couple hours
kingcoreXxX
yea gimme a min
angelicpurr
okee >_<
kingcoreXxX is typing...
sry my sister is bein a pain
kingcoreXxX
Two of them, Olai!

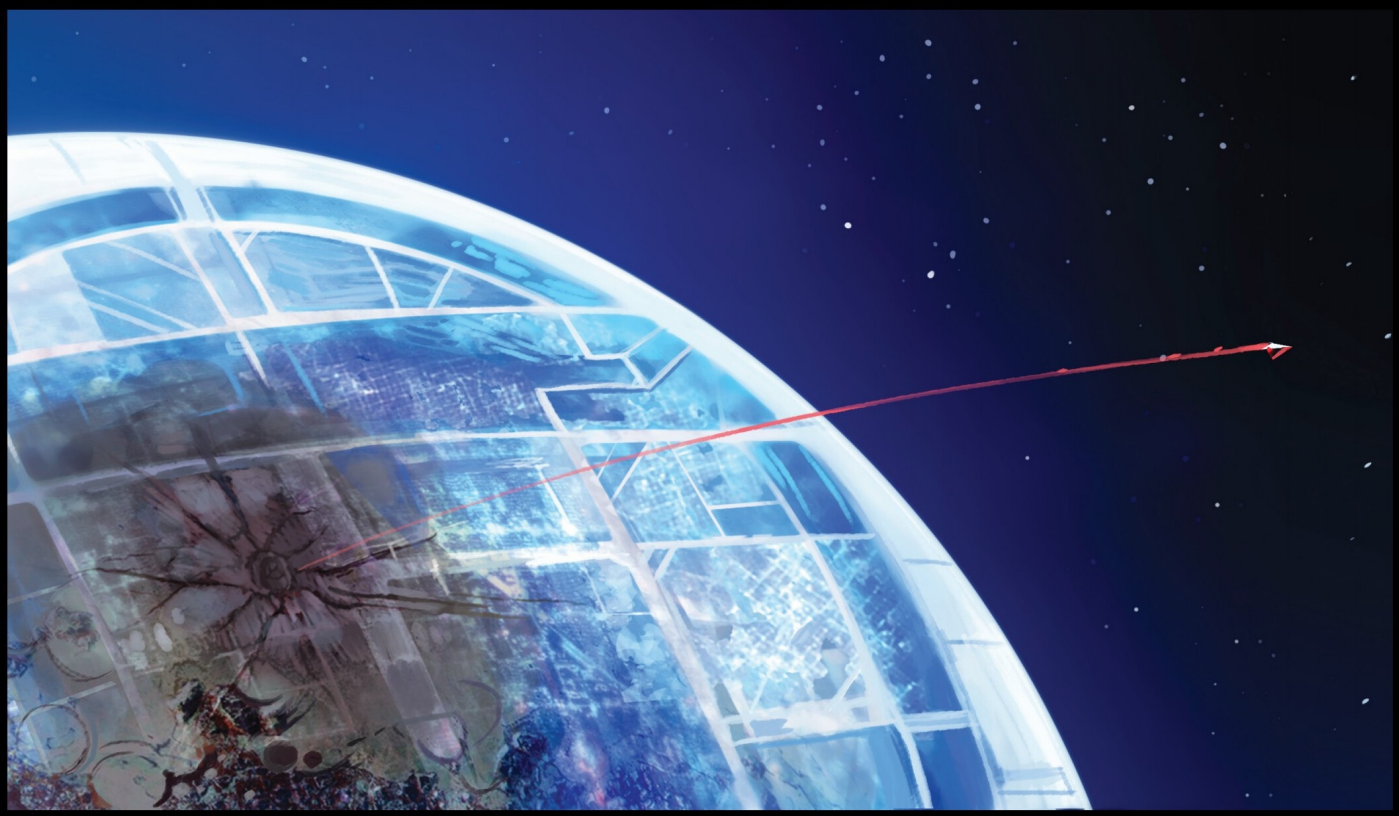
And you ACTUALLY believed him?
Well, I... you see... part of the TITAN HQ was obliterated-

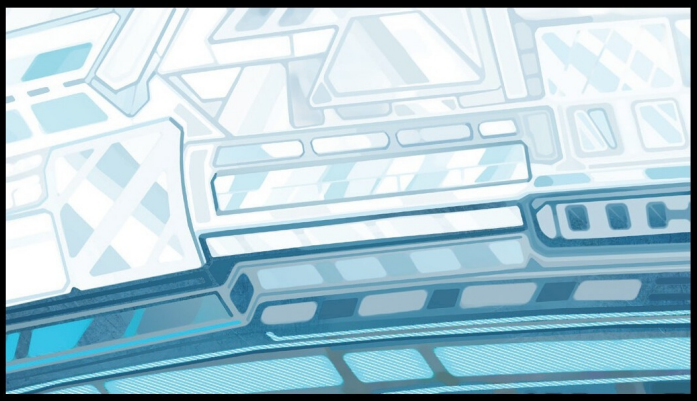
-it's definitely not Scavenger destruction-
-so Raven and I were thinking-
-maybe he is telling the truth.
SCOFF
-then he wouldn't be on the run, like he is.
If Odin HAD found anything of importance-
Odin is incapable of obliterating anything but himself-
-so stop believing everything he says.
It's really embarrassing how gullible you are.
But-!
Come home and get your next mission.
CLICK
BEEP
END TRANSMISSION
OLAI
MORE OPTIONS
pant
pant
pant
Alright-
-let's get out of here.
Boy, what a day.
-?!
Can't wait to hang with Merita-

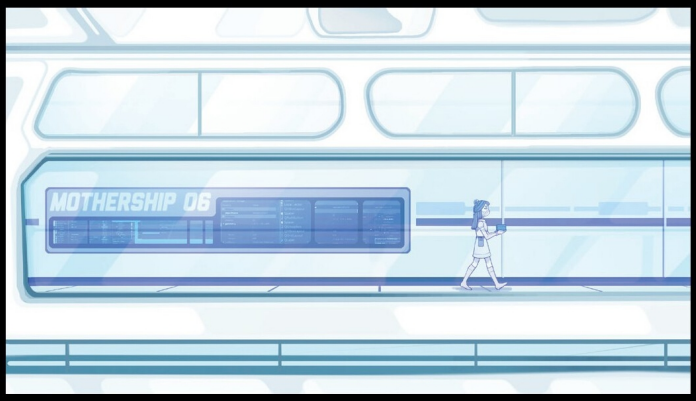
!!!!!!

WHAP

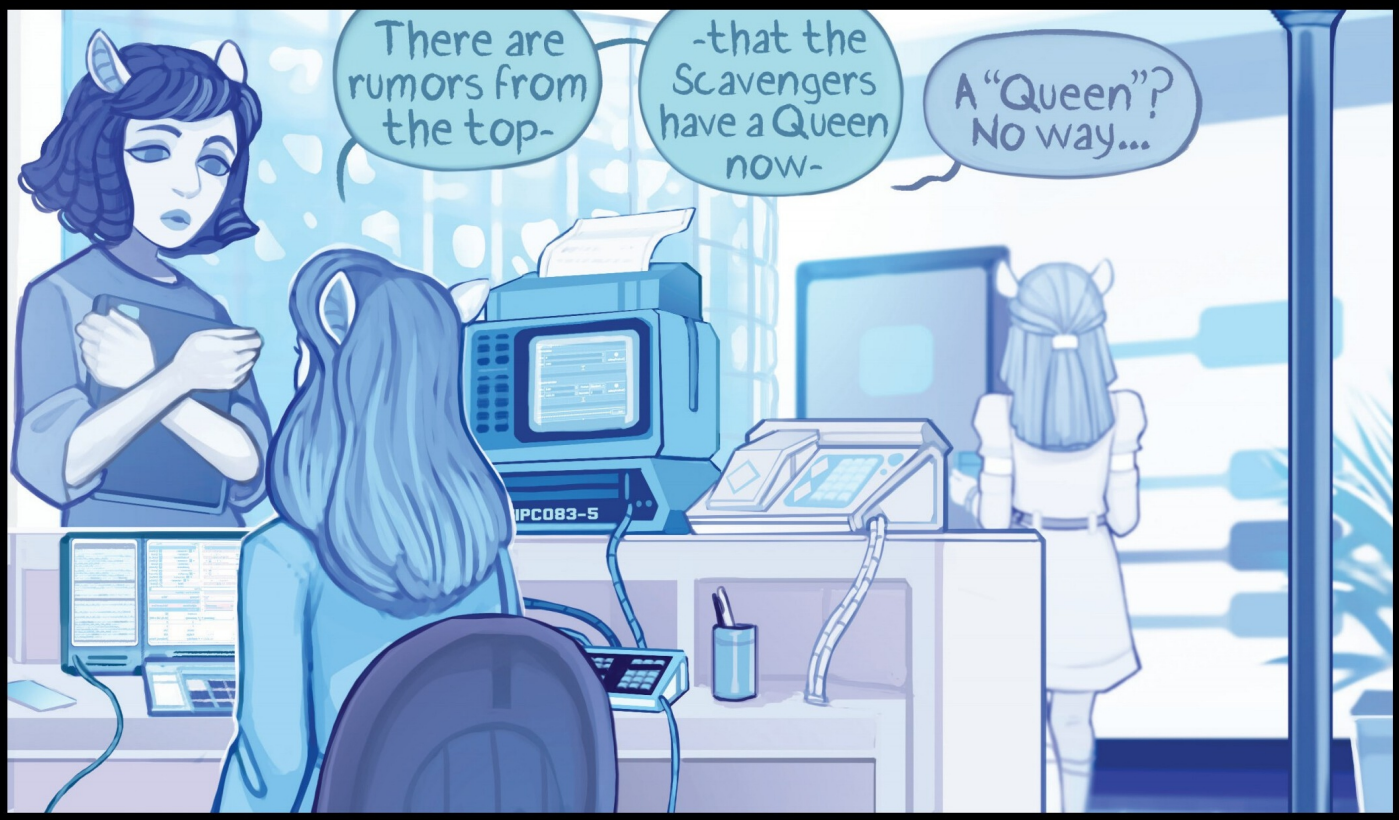







MOTHERSHIP 06

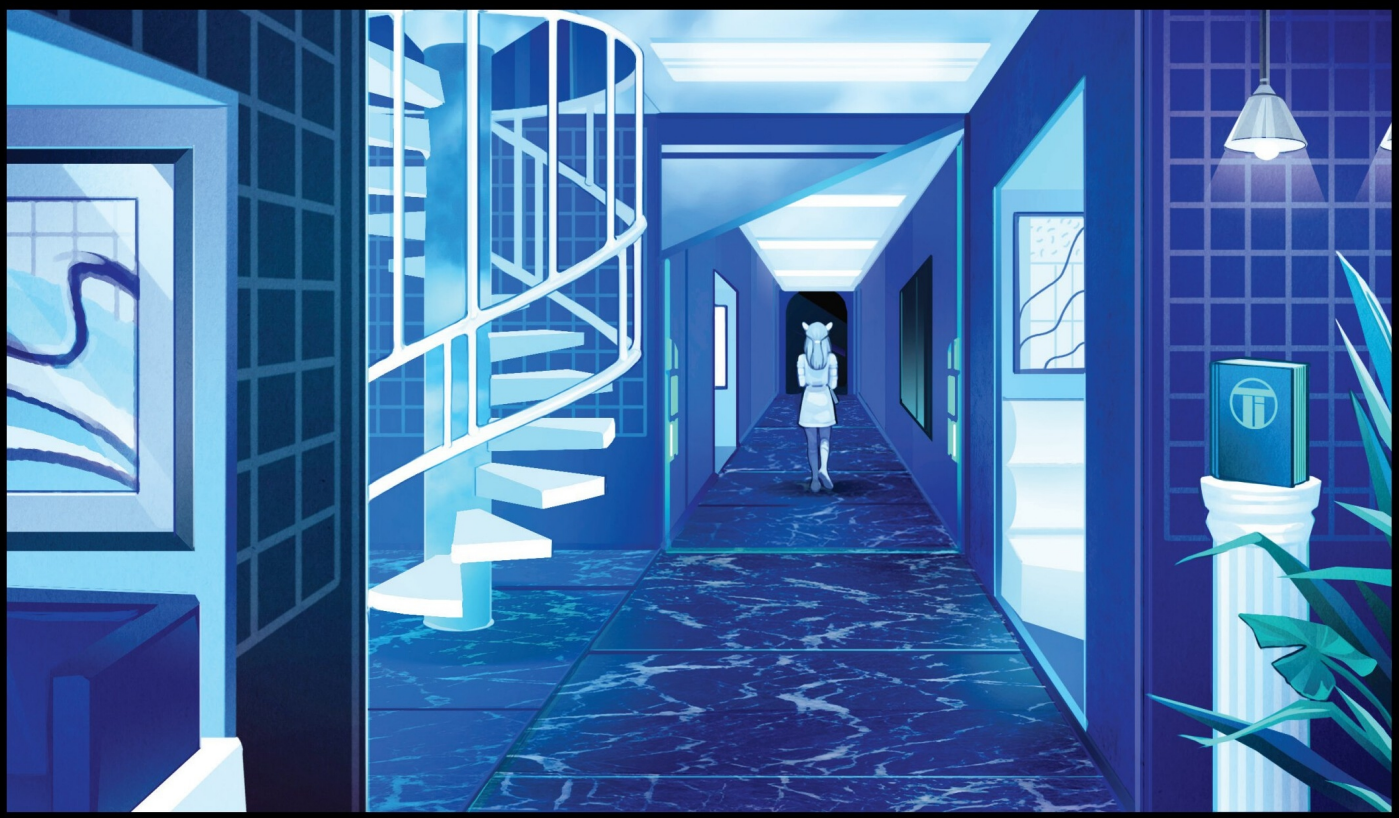
ENRICH. LABS #01-08
LABS #012-024
TECH. DEV. #01-06
MED. DEV. #001-012
MAIN ROTUNDA
Did you hear on the waves? About what happened to the HQ?
TIPC083-5


There are rumors from the top-
-that the Scavengers have a Queen now-
A "Queen"? No way...
TIPC083-5

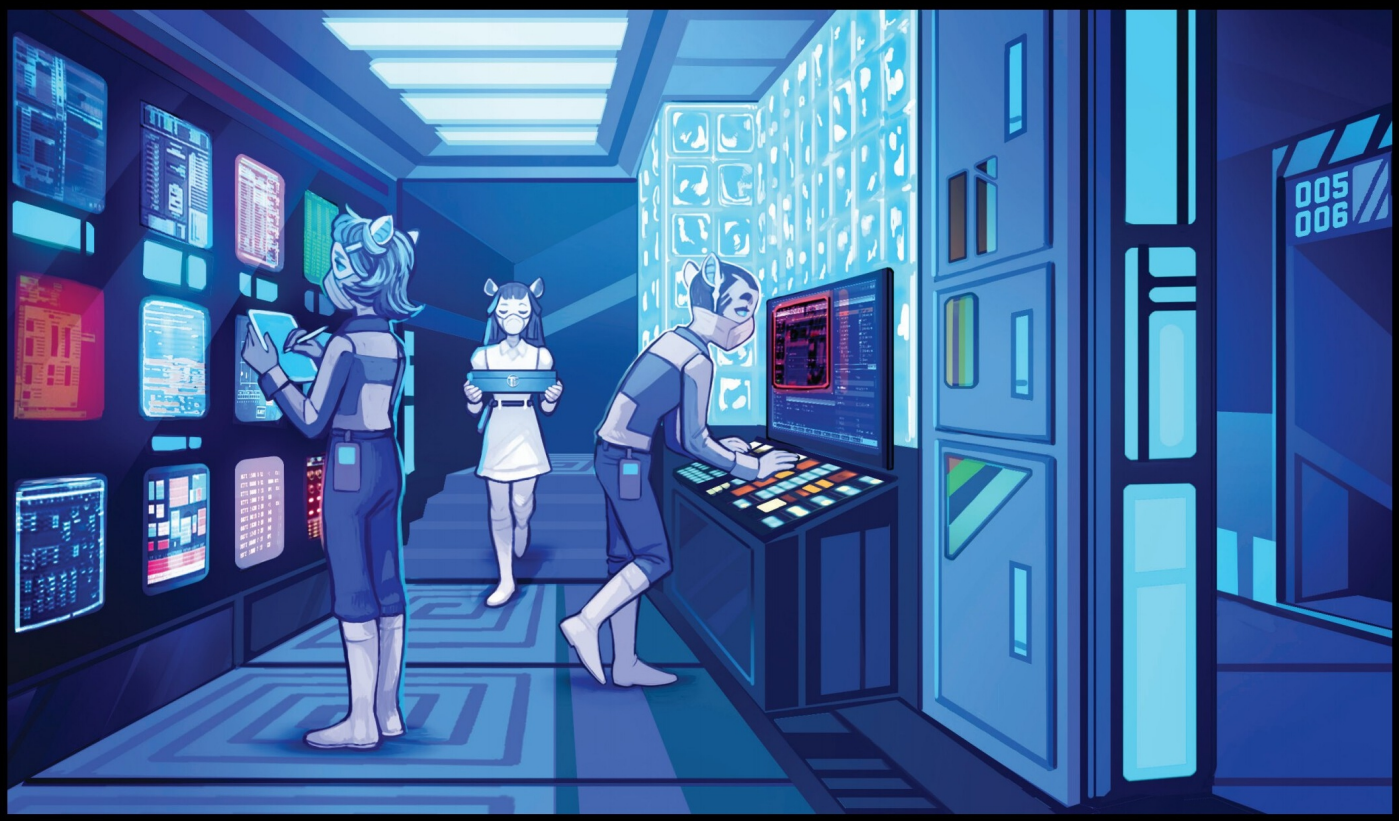
...like a "hivemind" type of Queen?
I'm not sure... but she leveled the Recruitment District-
-killed a bunch of Followers-
-melted the Glory monument.
#009-018→
←#019-024
I thought the Scavengers only stole from us ...
They're saying the Scavengers have officially declared War on TITAN.
How scary ...
Everything is going to be so different from now on ...

003

TITAN IS ALL



MEDICAL
DEVELOPMENT
002
003
004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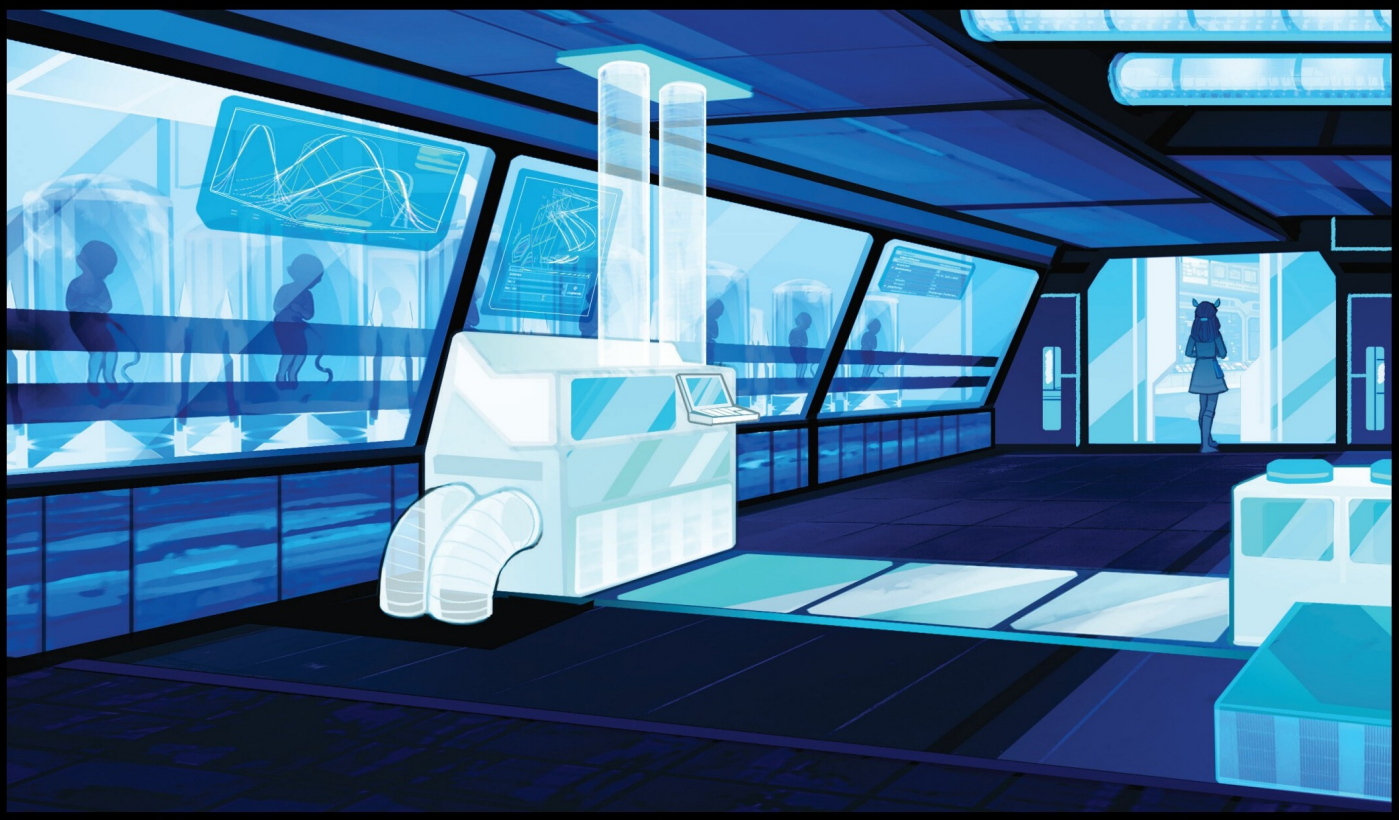
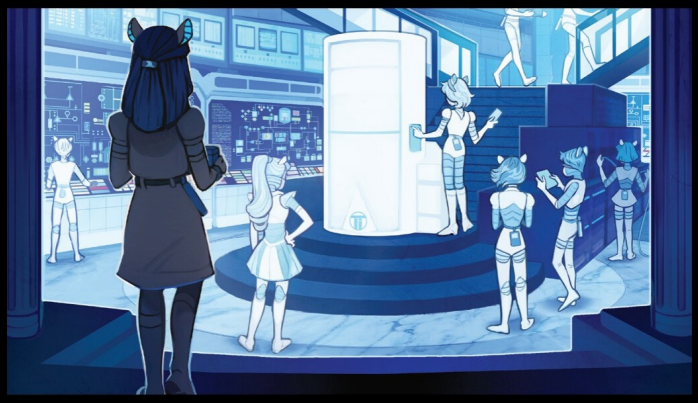
006





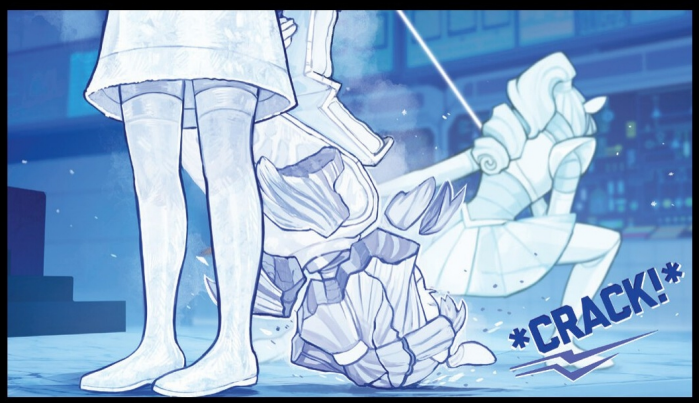
PERFECTION ...
STRATEGOS SIX-
OUR ENGINEERS HAVE FOLLOWED VEEVRA'S LATEST BLUEPRINTS-
-TO THEIR EXACT SPECIFICATIONS, AS REQUESTED-
-AND HAVE COMPLETED YOUR NEW WEAPONS.
YOU! SOLDIER!
DO YOU KNOW WHY I'VE BROUGHT YOU HERE TODAY?

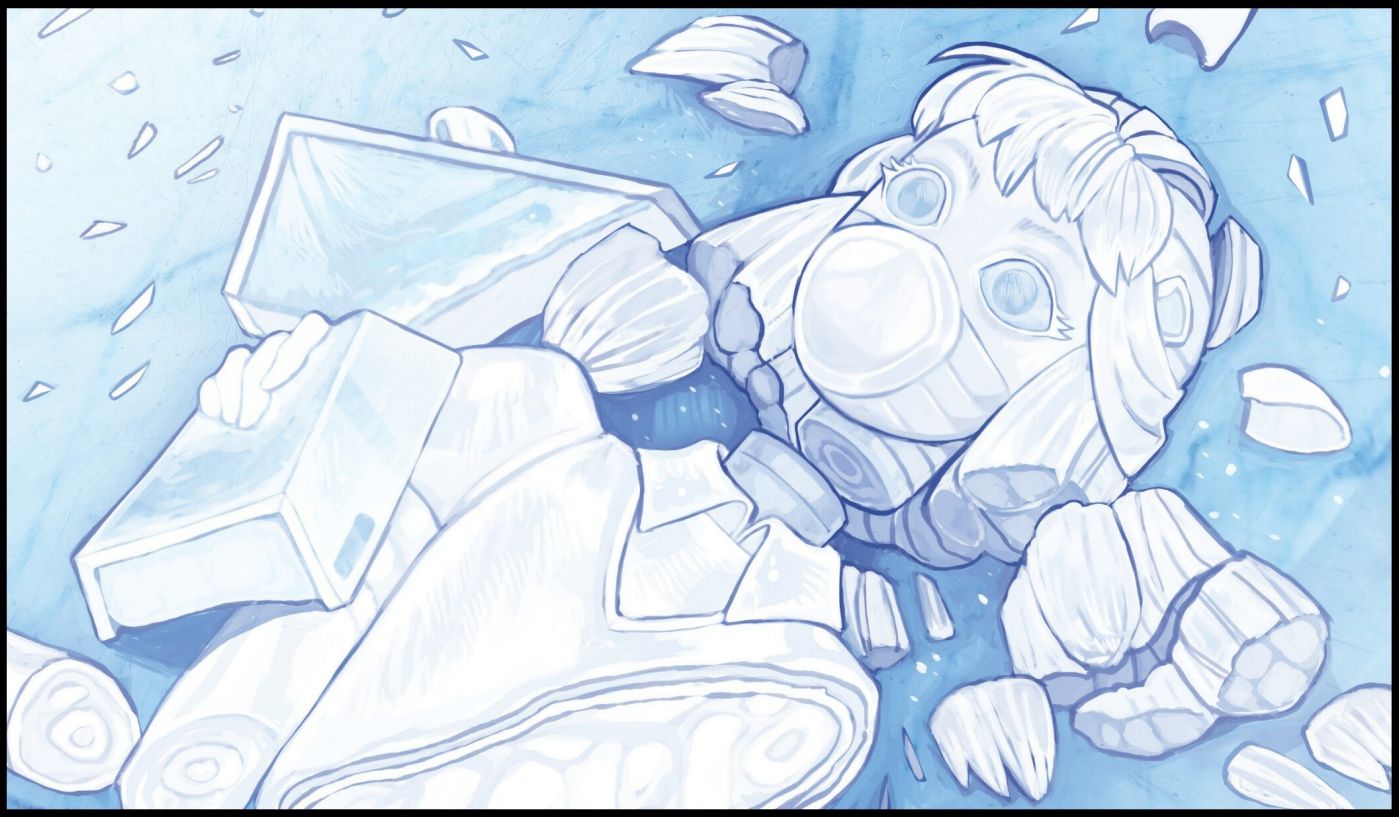
I'M PROMOTING YOU TO THIRD IN COMMAND.
YOU WILL BE MY SUBORDINATE AND ASSISTANT FROM NOW ON.
YOUR NEW TITLE IS TAXIARCH FIVE.
UNDER-STOOD?
YES, MY STRATEGOS!
I'VE HAD VEEVRA CREATE AND OPTIMIZE THIS WEAPON FOR YOU AND YOU ALONE.
TEST IT OUT, TAXIARCH.
THRUST
SHINK

LUNGE

SNAP
HISS

FREEZE
CRACKLE


CRACK!



SIMPLY *MAGNIFICENT*. I PRAY TO TITAN THAT IT'LL WORK JUST AS WELL ON OUR TARGET.
ALRIGHT! NEW PROJECT, EVERYONE!
LET'S SEE IF WE CAN PUT THE ENGINEER BACK TOGETHER!
CLAP

IF NOT, THEN DUST OFF A RESUME AND HIRE A NEW ONE, A.S.A.P.

BY THE WAY, THAT WAS AN EXCELLENT DISPLAY OF FORM, TAXIARCH FIVE.
I EXPECT MORE OF THAT FROM YOU IN THE FUTURE.

NOW COME, LET US DEPART.

WE HAVE A MISSION TO FULFILL FOR TITAN ON PLANET EXCESSA-
-AND OUR VESSEL AWAITS US.
YES, MY STRATEGOS.

CHAPTER 5

Uhnh...
Worst sleep of my life ...
... stupid Tuls ...
Psst... Gil...
... are you awake?
mmmm
TITAN TALES

TITAN TALES

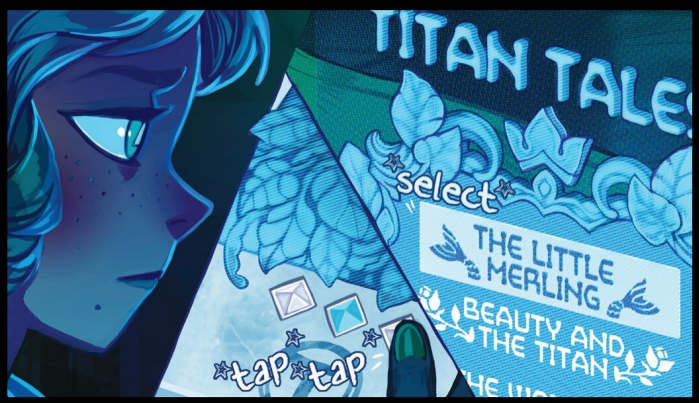
TITAN TALES
PRESS TO BEGIN

To Gil,
thanks for always believing in me
your best friend,
Titan

Titan...
...didn't actually write that ...
...did he?

PRESS TO BEGIN
press
flicker

TITAN TALES
THE LITTLE MERLING
BEAUTY AND THE TITAN
THE WOLF AND THE FOX
A FOLLOWER'S ADVENTURES IN TITANLAND


TITAN TALES
select
THE LITTLE MERLING
BEAUTY AND THE TITAN
tap tap

THE LITTLE MERLING

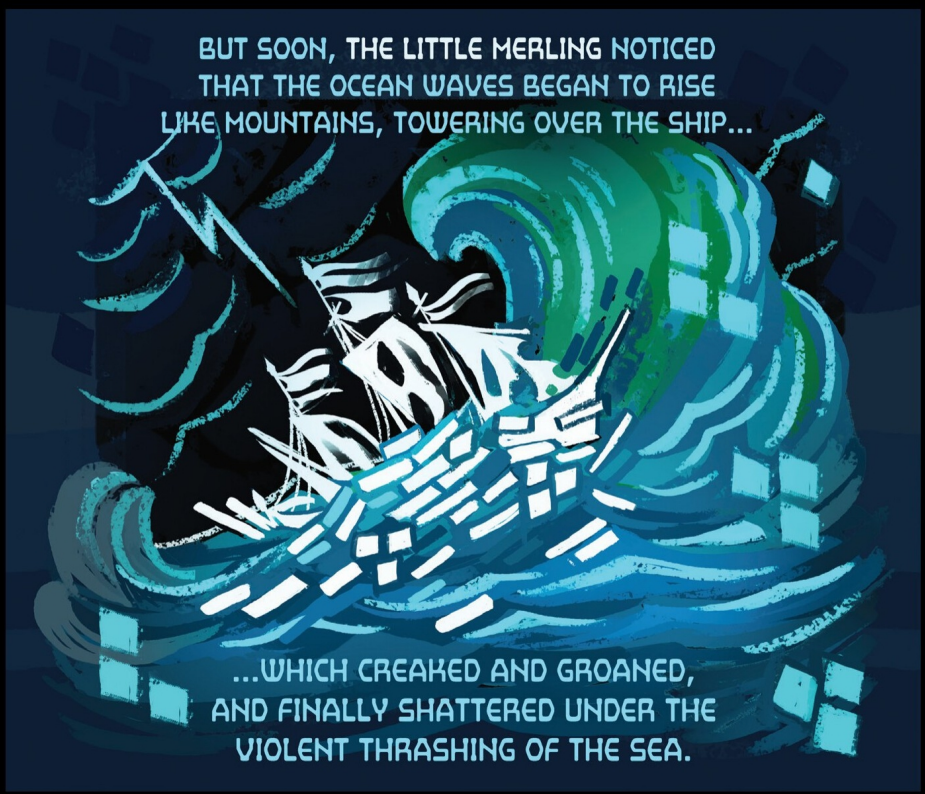
ONCE UPON A TIME, IN A FARAWAY LAND,
DOWN IN THE DEPTHS OF A SPARKLING SEA,
LIVED A ROYAL CREATURE CALLED
THE LITTLE MERLING.

WITH A TAIL OF JEWELED SCALES
AND ALL THE GRACE OF THE
OCEAN WAVES...
...THE LITTLE MERLING SPENT THEIR DAYS
CARING FOR THE SEA CREATURES AND TENDING
TO THE FLOWERS OF A BEAUTIFUL SEA GARDEN.

IN THIS GARDEN, THE LITTLE MERLING KEPT MANY TREASURES THAT HAD FLOATED DOWN FROM SHIPS IN THE WORLD ABOVE.
"The greatest treasure of all," THOUGHT THE MERLING, "would be to walk on land and enjoy life in the sun."

ONE FATEFUL DAY, THE LITTLE MERLING SWAM TO THE SURFACE TO EXPLORE...
...AND CAME ACCROSS A MAGNIFICENT SHIP, GLIDING ON THE OCEAN WAVES.

THE OCEAN LIFTED THE LITTLE MERLING HIGH ENOUGH TO SEE INTO THE SHIP'S GLOWING WINDOWS.
IT WAS A HUMAN CELEBRATION FOR A YOUNG PRINCE'S BIRTHDAY. "Oh! How handsome the dark-eyed prince is!" THOUGHT THE LITTLE MERLING.


BUT SOON, THE LITTLE MERLING NOTICED THAT THE OCEAN WAVES BEGAN TO RISE LIKE MOUNTAINS, TOWERING OVER THE SHIP...
...WHICH CREAKED AND GROANED, AND FINALLY SHATTERED UNDER THE VIOLENT THRASHING OF THE SEA.

THE LITTLE MERLING WATCHED THE PRINCE SINK BENEATH THE WRECKAGE AND REMEMBERED THAT HUMANS COULD NOT SURVIVE IN THE SEA.
"He must not die!" THE LITTLE MERLING EXCLAIMED, DIVING DEEP DOWN INTO THE WATER, RUSHING TO RESCUE THE PRINCE.

THE LITTLE MERLING CAUGHT THE PRINCE AND SWAM UP, UP, UP ONTO THE FINE WHITE SAND, LAYING THE DARK-EYED PRINCE ON THE BEACH IN THE WARM SUNSHINE.
"Thank you for saving my life," SAID THE PRINCE... "Without you, I surely would have sunk to the bottom of the sea."

"But I must admit," CONTINUED THE PRINCE,
"this is not the first time my life has been saved."
"I was saved once before..."

"...by our Lord and Savior TITAN and his powerful teachings on being a great follower."
SAID THE PRINCE TO THE LITTLE MERLING.
"Won't you join me in spreading his good word throughout the universe?"

Lord and Savior TITAN and his
calling on being a great follower."
HE PRINCE TO THE LITTLE MERLING.

Lame.
FWIP!

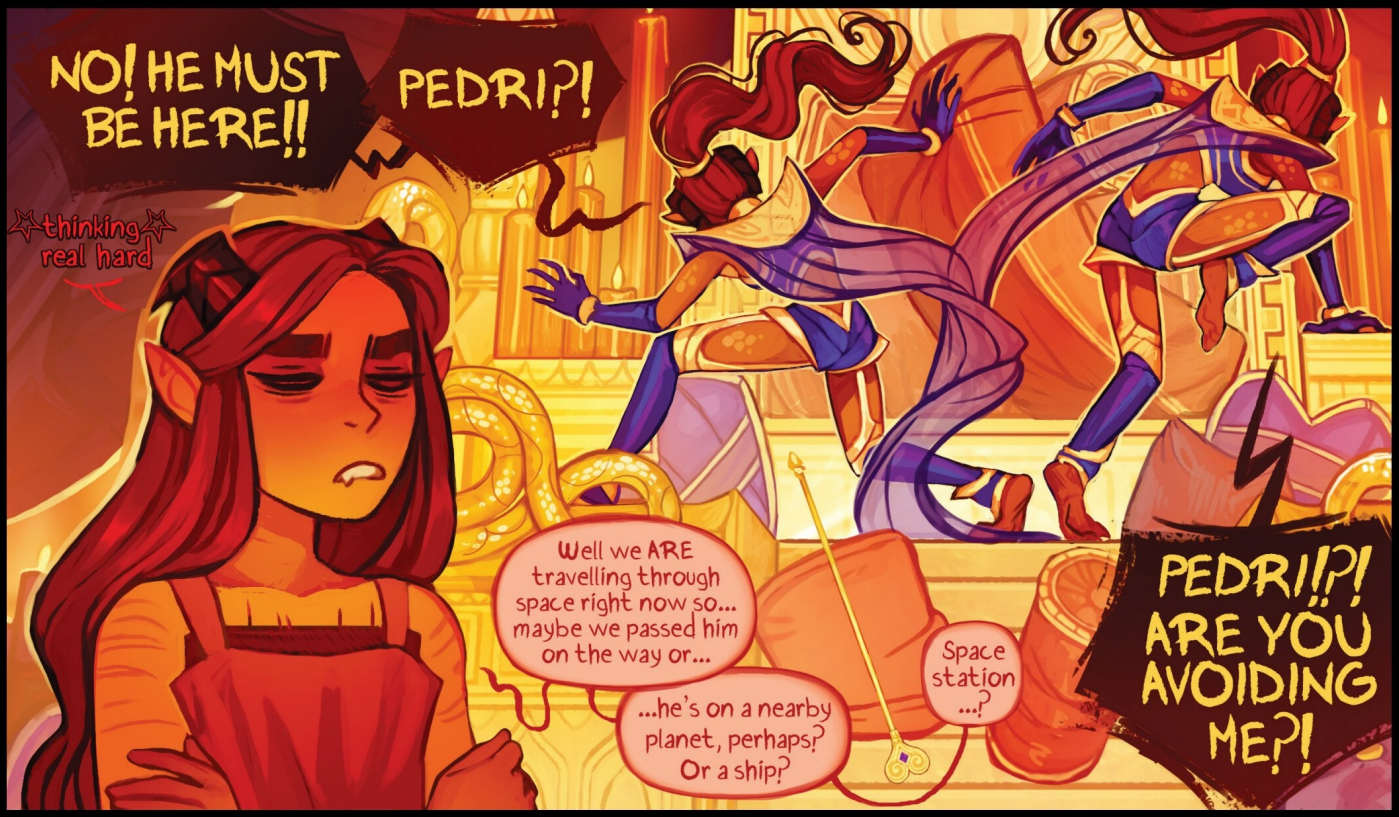
CHAPTER 6

EH-HEM!

WELL?!
"Well" what?
WELL?! WHERE IS HE!?
Hh...
"He"?
Wait, who are we talkin' about, again?
MY HUSBAND- MY HUSBAND DAMN IT ALL!!
PEDRI "TALL, DARK, HANDSOME AND BLOODTHIRSTY" NANEZGANI!!
WHAP WHAP WHAP

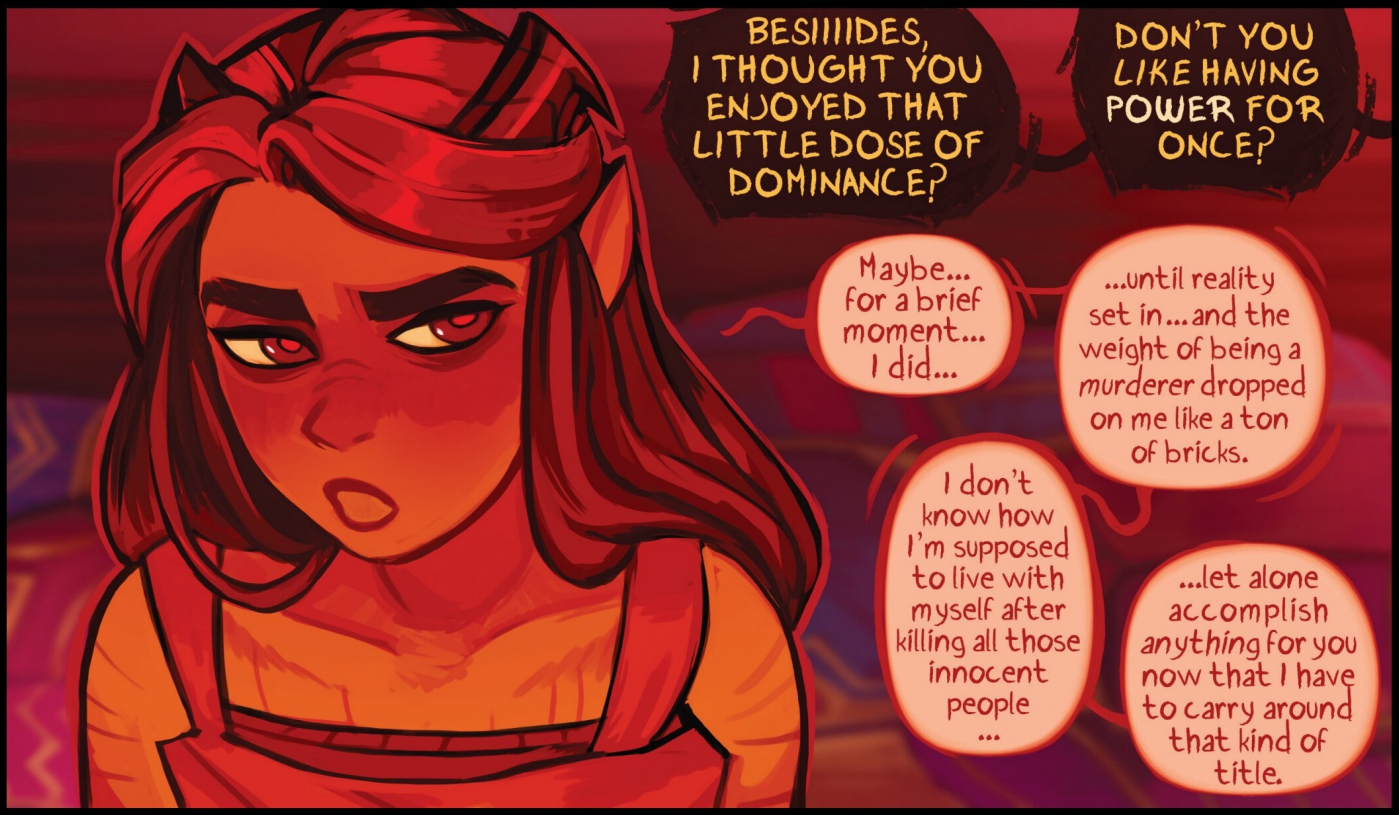
Hmmmmm... husband?
ARE YOUR SENSES COMPLETELY INCAPACITATED?!
THE SPIRITUAL ETHER YOU'RE SITTING IN IS SOAKED WITH HIS AURA!!!

HOW COULD HIS PRESENCE BE THIS POWERFUL IF YOU DIDN'T BRINGNH HIM HEREEUHN?!
I'm so confused.


NO! HE MUST BE HERE!!
PEDRI?!
thinking real hard
Well we ARE travelling through space right now so... maybe we passed him on the way or...
...he's on a nearby planet, perhaps? Or a ship?
Space station ...?
PEDRI!?! ARE YOU AVOIDING ME?!

GRRRAR ARGHGH!!! HE'S CLOSER THAN THAT!! I KNOW HE IS BECAUSE I'M GOING CRAZY!!!
MY MEMORIES OF THICK SMOKE AND FINE WINES WILL ONLY STAVE OFF THE LONELINESS FOR SO LONG!

Ehhh, it's only been a day. If he's close then we'll find him soon.
YOUR CARE-FREE ATTITUDE IS REALLY STARTING TO PISS ME OFF!!
THIS IS A PACT! NOT A PARTY!! I NEEDED MY WARRIORS 15 YEARS AGO!!!
SOON IS NOT SOON ENOUGH UNDERSTAND!?
Huh... you sure are expecting a whole lot of me...
... considering how you've turned me into a cold-blooded murderer.
EHEUHEH WHAAAAAAAT? A MURDERER YOU SAY?!
IS THIS ABOUT THOSE ITTY-BITTY FOLLOWERS OF TITAN?
THEY'RE IN PARADISE NOW, AREN'T THEY? THAT'S HOW IT WORKS, RIGHT?
WE SIMPLY GAVE THEM WHAT THEY'VE ALWAYS WANTED!
SCOFF

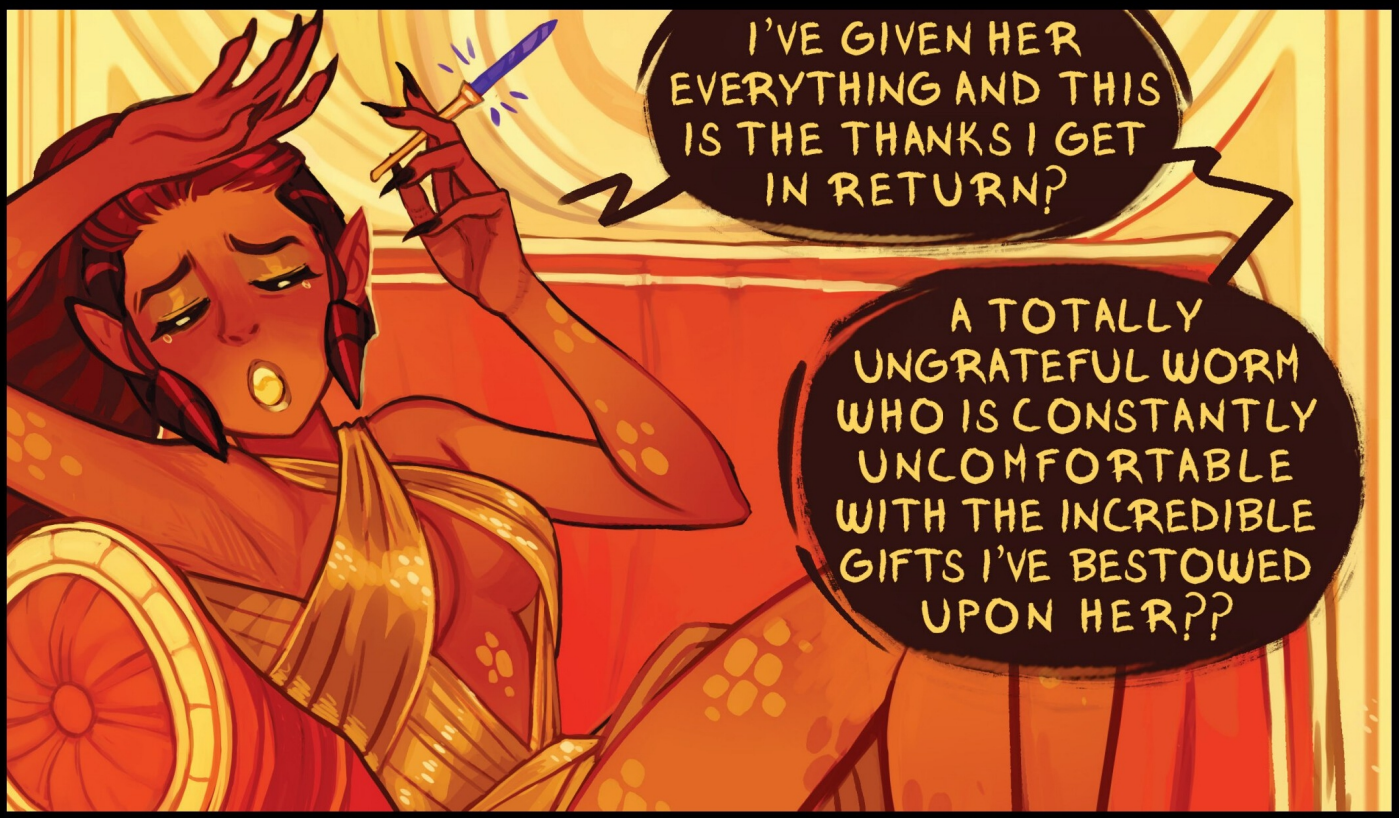

BESIIIIDES, I THOUGHT YOU ENJOYED THAT LITTLE DOSE OF DOMINANCE?
DON'T YOU LIKE HAVING POWER FOR ONCE?
Maybe... for a brief moment... I did...
...until reality set in... and the weight of being a murderer dropped on me like a ton of bricks.
I don't know how I'm supposed to live with myself after killing all those innocent people ...
...let alone accomplish anything for you now that I have to carry around that kind of title.

...
It's real easy for you to demand terrible things of me, like the heartless witch you are...
...especially from this cozy little headspace, but out in the living universe I'm not exactly loved.
Not to mention I've become just as scary as you!
pinch
This horrid, lizard skin will REALLY sell our cause.

HMPH! WELL!
AS UNGRATEFUL AS YOU ARE, I HAPPEN TO THINK I'VE GIVEN YOU QUITE THE UPGRADE FROM YOUR USUAL, DULL SELF.
ESPECIALLY SINCE IT MAKES YOU INFINITELY MORE SUITED FOR WAR.
YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO DEAL WITH BEING MAGNIFICENT UNTIL THE PACT IS COMPLETE.
SNAP
BUT I DIGRESS, YOU CAN APPEAR HOWEVER YOU DAMN WELL LIKE IN HERE. IT'S YOUR MIND!
SO IF YOU HATE YOUR NEW LOOK THAT MUCH, DO ME A FAVOR AND QUIT CRAMPING MY STYLE!

Wait, huh? I can change in here?
Nice! Back to same-old me!

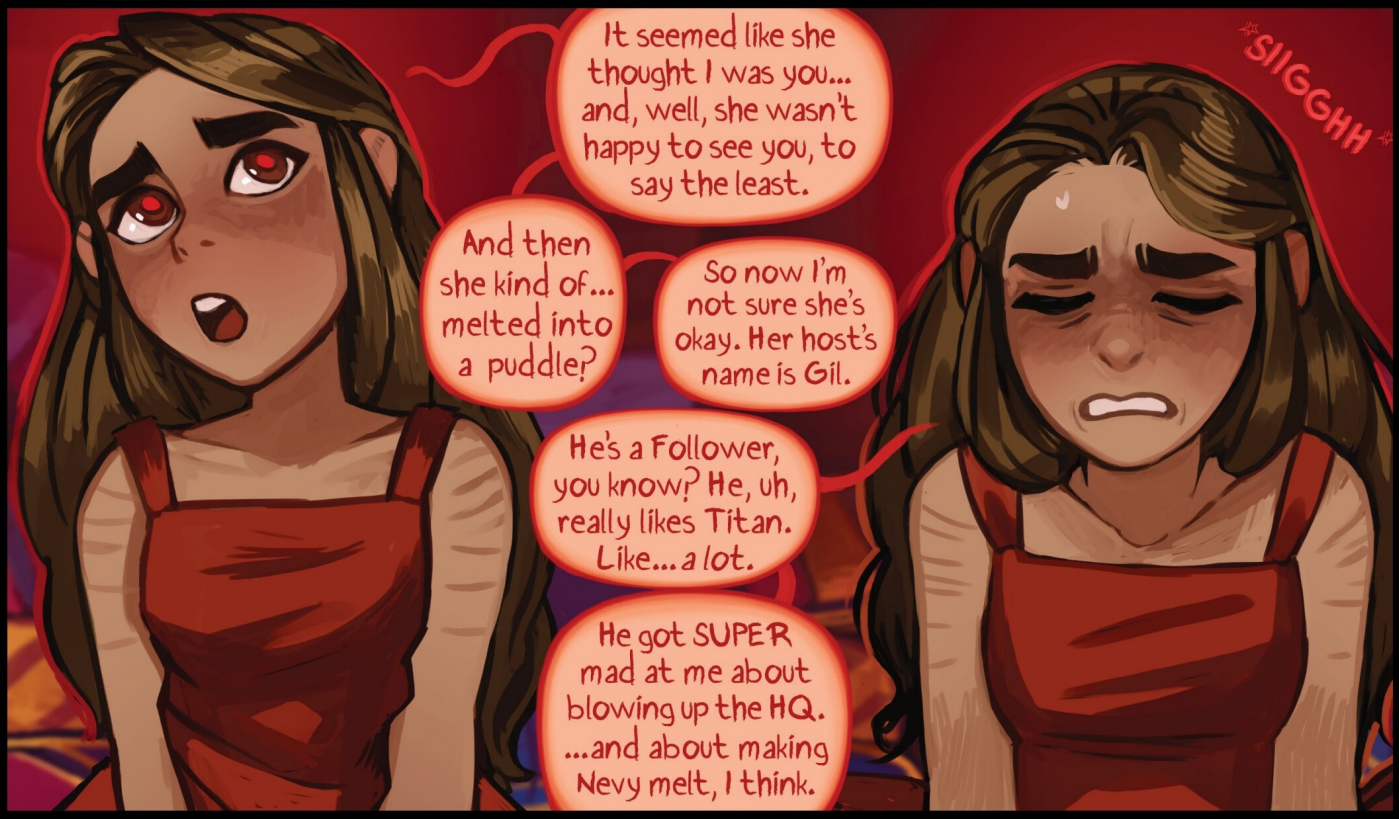
Wish I could un-kill all those people just as easily-
I HAVE GROWN SO VERY WEARY FROM YOUR THANKLESS SCRUTINY!
OH! I'M FAINT! I TIRE OF THIS!


I'VE GIVEN HER EVERYTHING AND THIS IS THE THANKS I GET IN RETURN?
A TOTALLY UNGRATEFUL WORM WHO IS CONSTANTLY UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THE INCREDIBLE GIFTS I'VE BESTOWED UPON HER??

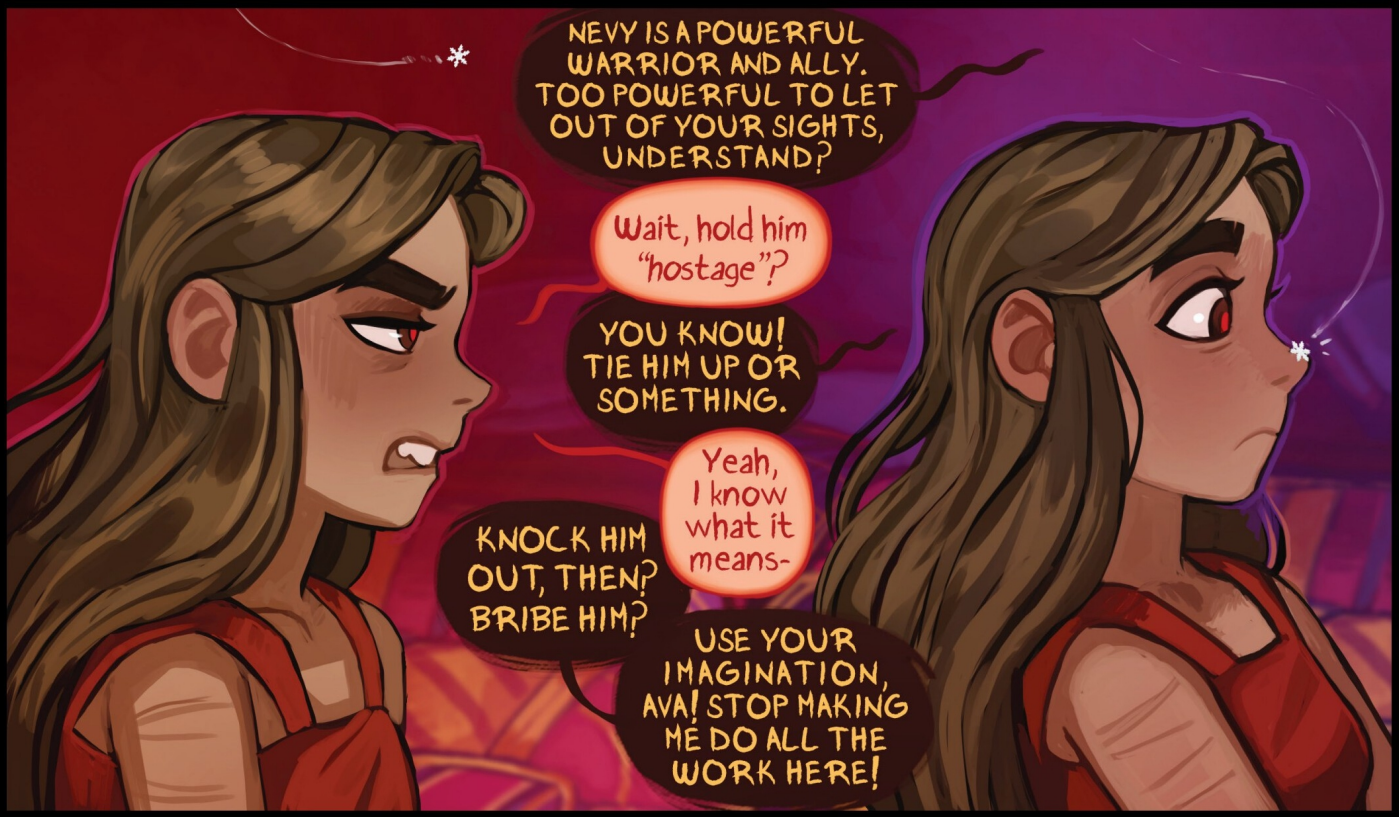
Oh! Wait a sec'!
I didn't find your husband yet, but...
...I did find a sea friend of yours! I think you had told me about her.
A WHAT? A SEA-WHOM?
She's pink and blue, and has these wonderful fins all over her ...

CORAL HORNS? DIAMOND SCALES!? PIERCING EMERALDS FOR EYES!?!
With pearls all over her! She said her name was-
NEVY!? NEVY NERVINE!?
YEAH! That's her! Nevy Nervine-

AAAAHAHAHA HAHAHAHAH!! YES! YESSS!!!
AAAAHA HAHAHAHA HAHAHAAA WOOOH!!
I KNEW THAT SALTY SMACKDOWN WAS HER! MY PLAN IS WORKING OUT AFTER ALL!!
There might be a small problem, however...

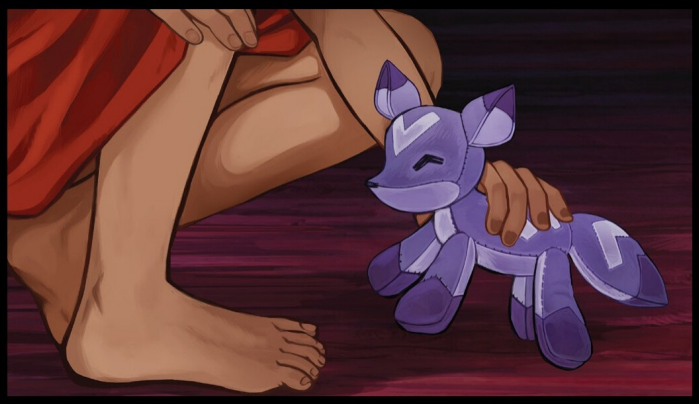

It seemed like she thought I was you... and, well, she wasn't happy to see you, to say the least.
And then she kind of... melted into a puddle?
So now I'm not sure she's okay. Her host's name is Gil.
He's a Follower, you know? He, uh, really likes Titan. Like... a lot.
He got SUPER mad at me about blowing up the HQ. ...and about making Nevy melt, I think.
SIIGGHH

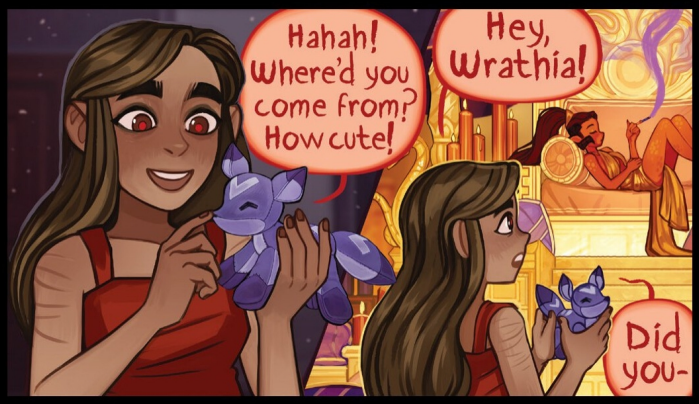
NEVY'S FIIIINE. SHE'S JUST BEING A BIT THEATRICAL, THAT'S ALL.
WE HAVE KIND OF A HISTORY, HER AND I.
A SORT OF ROMANTIC ONE, WITH A BIT OF RIVALRY, MAYBE, BUT IT WAS ALL IN THE GOOD FUN OF OUR ROYAL YOUTH.
WE'RE BOTH DEAD NOW, ANYWAY, AREN'T WE? GONNA' HAVE TO GET OVER IT SOONER OR LATER.
JUST MAKE SURE YOU KEEP MAKING A PEST OUT OF YOURSELF TO THAT TITAN FELLOW. HOLD HIM HOSTAGE IF YOU NEED TO.


NEVY IS A POWERFUL WARRIOR AND ALLY. TOO POWERFUL TO LET OUT OF YOUR SIGHTS, UNDERSTAND?
Wait, hold him "hostage"?
YOU KNOW! TIE HIM UP OR SOMETHING.
Yeah, I know what it means-
KNOCK HIM OUT, THEN? BRIBE HIM?
USE YOUR IMAGINATION, AVA! STOP MAKING ME DO ALL THE WORK HERE!

?
Huh?

What... the...




Hahah! Where'd you come from? How cute!
Hey, Wrathia!
Did you-

DON'T SPEAK TO ME AGAIN UNTIL YOU'VE FOUND MY HUSBAND.
pet
pet
...?
NEVY...HOW NOSTALGIC YOU'VE MADE ME.
I MISS THE HALCYON DAYS OF OUR YOUTH.
WHEN THE ONLY THINGS WE WORRIED ABOUT...
...WERE BANQUETS THAT LASTED FOR DAYS...
NEVY... I'M SORRY ...
What IS this?
Is this... is this what snow is?
It's... it's freezing! I dunno' if I've ever been this cold...
Did I see this in a book or-?
I don't remember experiencing anything as cold as this, though.
I haven't, right...?
Have I? No...
Wh... What...
...this place...
...isn't my mind ...is it?
It almost feels like ...
...
I'm in a dream.

?
Ah! Hey!

Odin?!

This is... your dream, isn't it?
Are... you all right?

What are you doin' down there?
I-I... c-can't... c-climb out...
...of the g-g-grave I've dug...

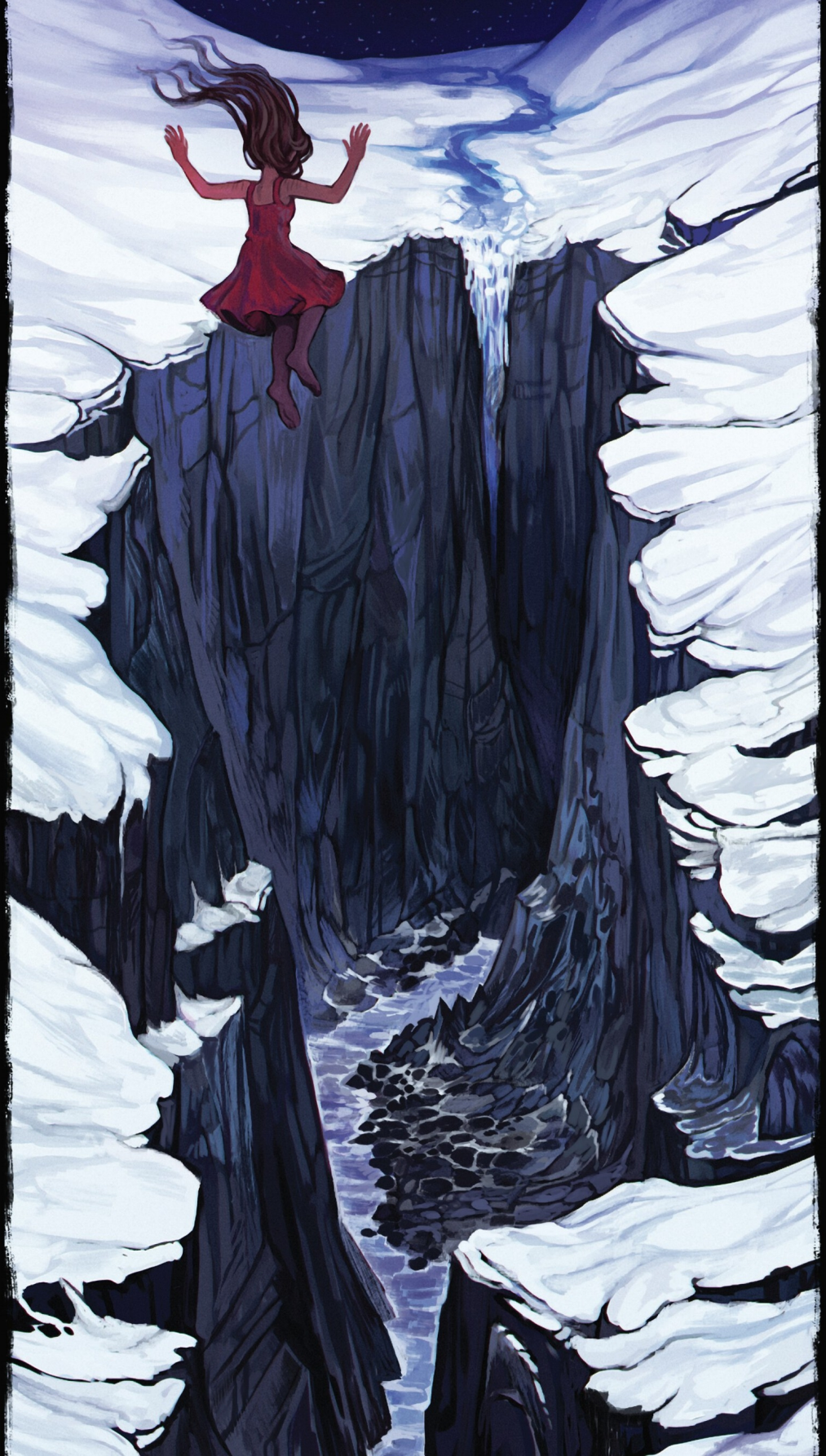
But...it's shallow enough!
You can climb out if you want!
You... can't climb out?
Just pull yourself up onto the ledge!

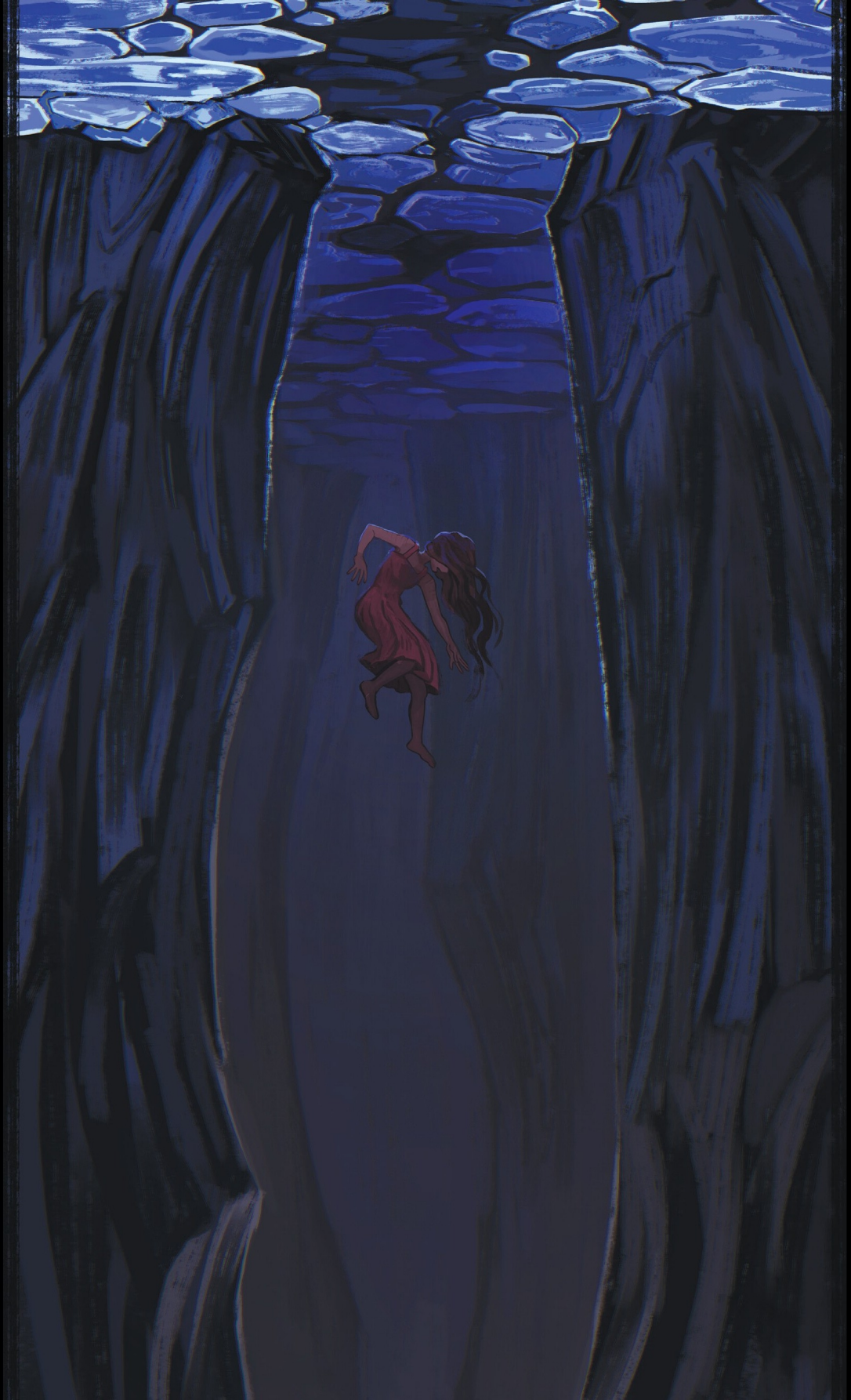
Take my hand and I'll try to pull you up.
Here! I can help you out.

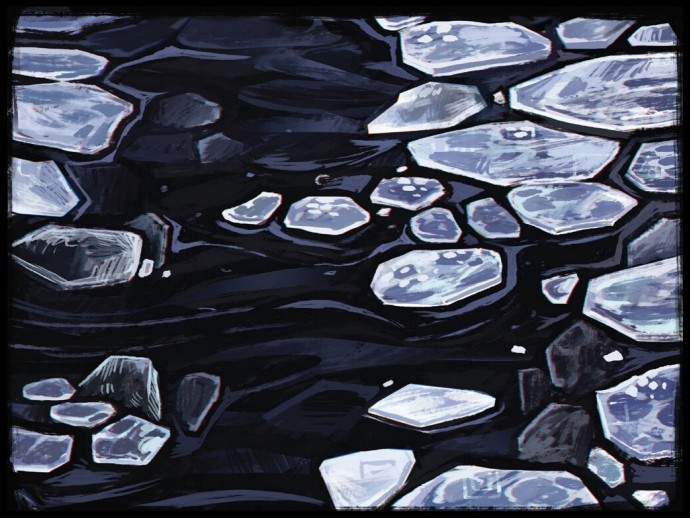
It's all my f-ff-fault.
J-just... leave m-m-me.

It's all right-

I'll come to you-







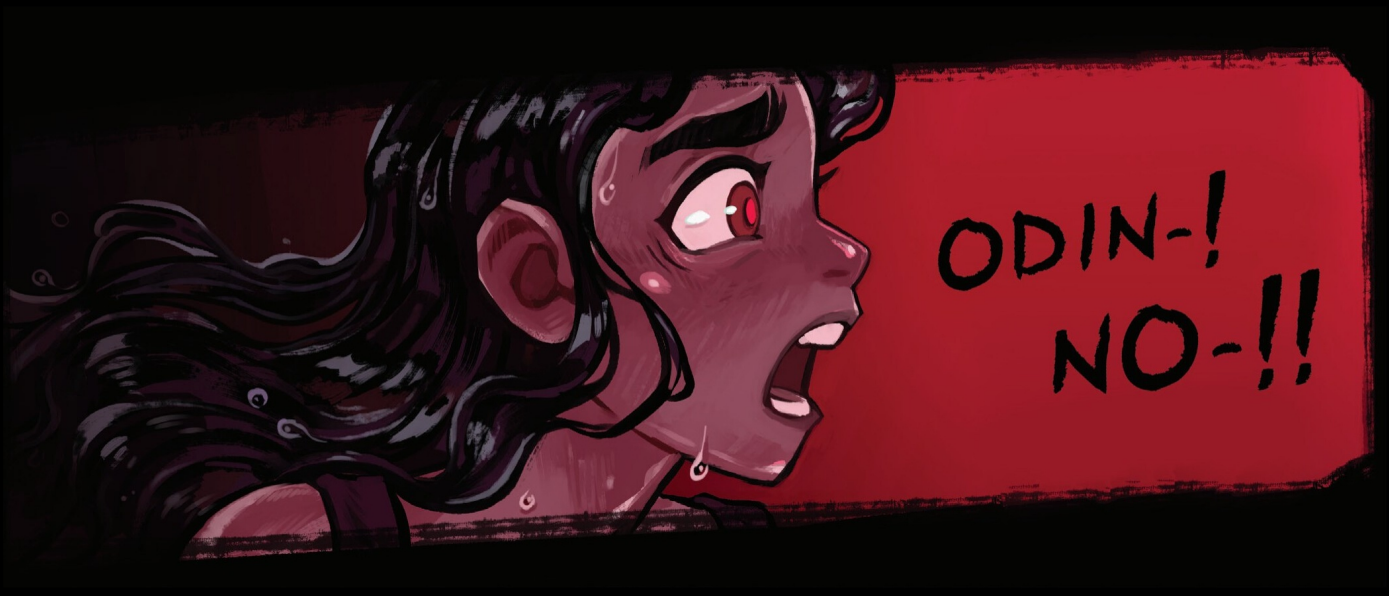
It's a l-lot d-d-d-deeper th-th-than it looks ....i-isn't it?

Odin?!
It's-s-s all right, though. L-Lots of us have f-f-fallen down here.
G-Great Queens and Kings have f-fallen down here.

I'm-m-mm... a u-useless heir ...a-aren't I?

W-w-w-worst of all...
I c-c-c couldn't

... s-s-save myself ...


ODIN-!
NO-!!

ODIN!!
SNAP OUT
OF IT!

SNAP OUT OF IT!
PLEASE, ODIN!
IT'S ONLY A DREAM- A VERY BAD DREAM!

DON'T WORRY!
I'VE GOT YOU!!

SNAP!
SNAP!
SNAP!

PANT
PANT
Odin... I've got you...

Odin?

HOW COULD YOU?

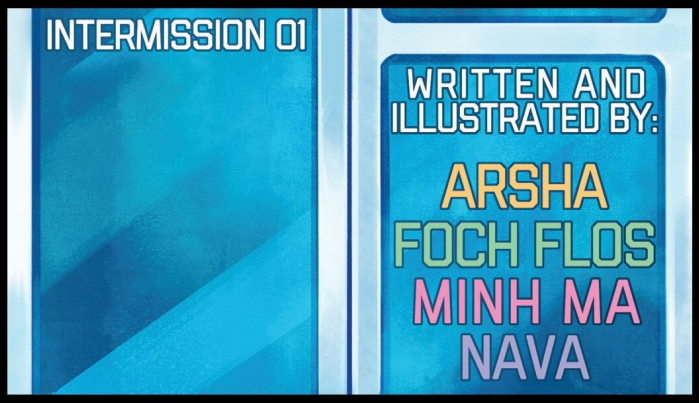
MURDERER ....

RISE

AND

SHINE

INTERMISSION

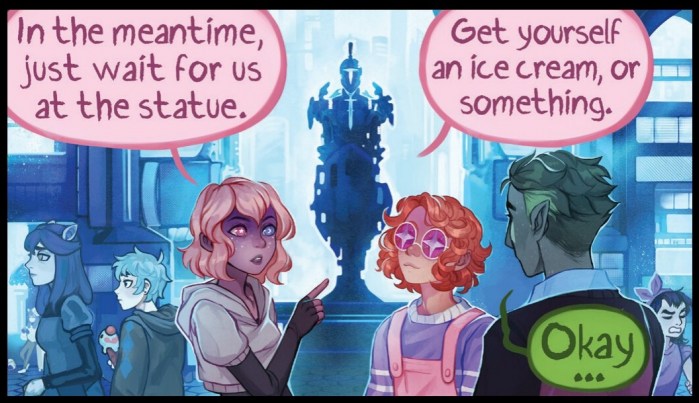

INTERMISSION 01
WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY:
ARSHA
FOCH FLOS
MINH MA
NAVA

So they think I'm... some sort of smuggler?
And I'm technically on TITAN's criminal watch list.
...
...

Like, come on! Look at this place!
I bet the list is blue and expensive, too.
Anyone who doesn't blend in is probably on SOME kind of list.

How much time will this take?
I'd say about two hours or so...
I'll just be picking up my stuff from the dorm-
-then I'll come back.

I'll go with you to get your stuff, Aurora
Tratar...just go do whatever and don't get lost.
Alrighty!
I can handle myself without the snarky advice, thanks.


In the meantime, just wait for us at the statue.
Get yourself an ice cream, or something.
Okay...

...
...

Welp.
What... happened here, exactly?
Beats me! Maybe a Barbeque? Sure smells like one...
So... where's Tratar?

Dead as dust, I'd say.
I'm going to try calling him.

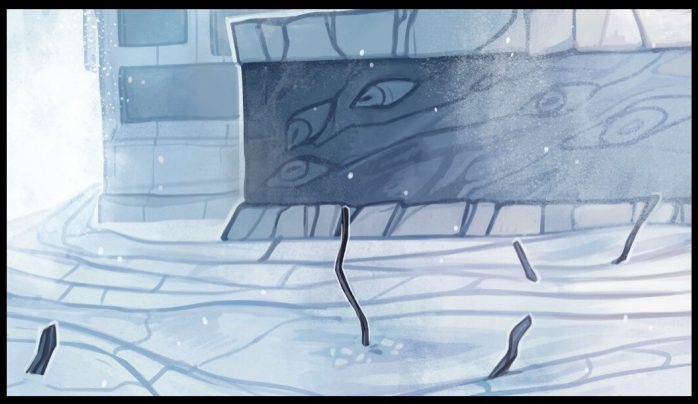
!!!
CRACK
!?!

COUGH COUGH
My ice cream melted...

Well...now that THAT mystery is solved...
I can't seem to find any info about what went on here-

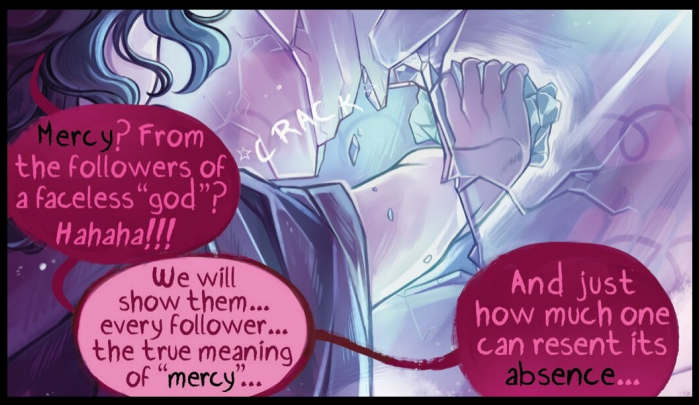
SCREEEEEEEEEEEEEEE-

Oh, what now!
Scavengers...?
It sounded more like... screaming?



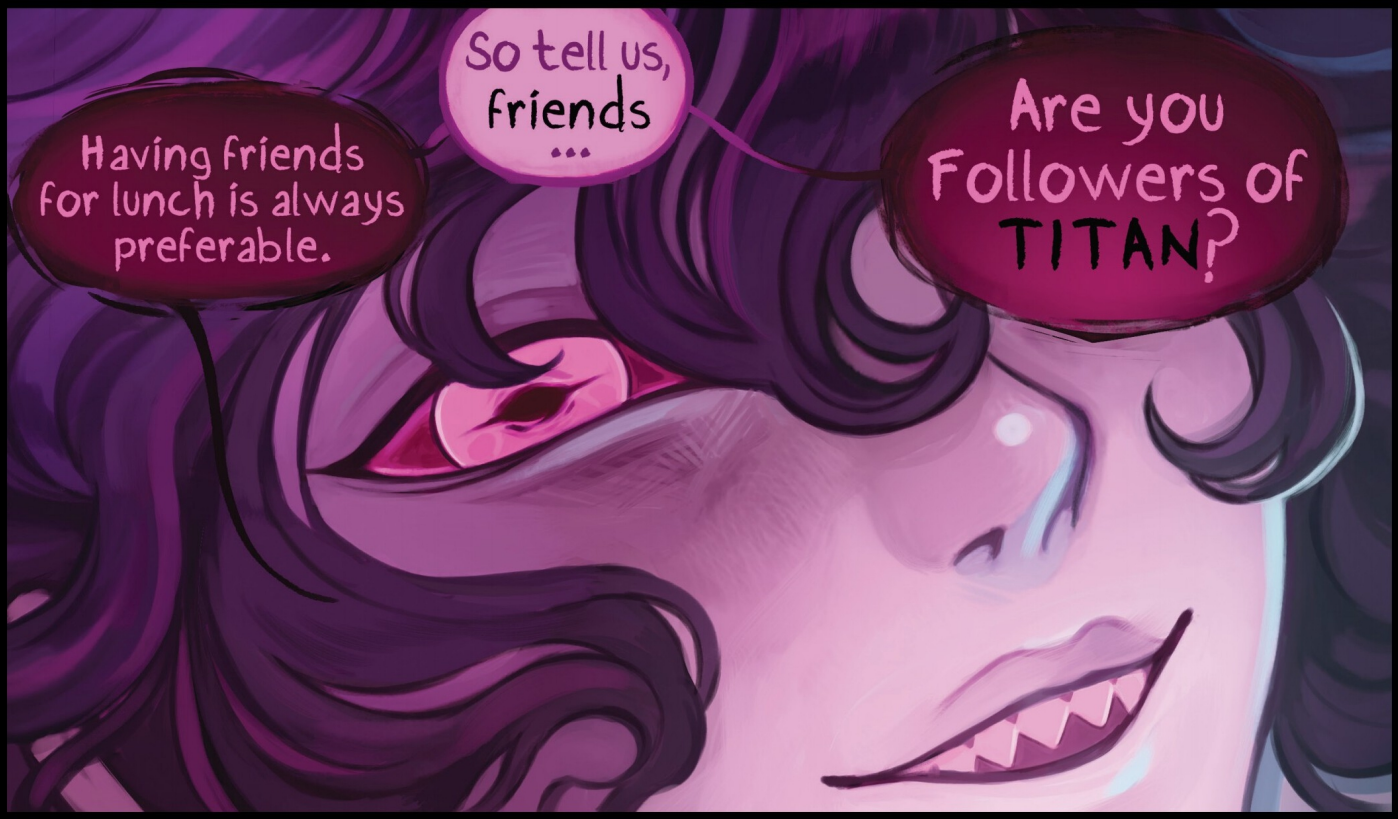
Be careful, Tratar...

Such vermin... How long was it? No food nor water?
Though, we need not such things the audacity of followers perplexes us.
Still it is remiss- without thought or prayer, even for a prisoner.


CRACK
Mercy? From the followers of a faceless "god"? Hahaha!!!
We will show them... every follower... the true meaning of "mercy"...
And just how much one can resent its absence...

Wh-who's there!?
Lex!

...Oh...
...it's just some pedestrians.
Good evening.


So tell us, friends ...
Having friends for lunch is always preferable.
Are you Followers of TITAN?

Good evening! as you can plainly see...
...we're just a bunch of freaks!
We all hate TITAN for our own personal reasons. So please don't eat us...

HAHAHA!
So we can see.
Well said! A fellow "freak" and enemy of TITAN is a friend of ours.
Our name is... Th'Ophaneia Praxid'ice M'ndorla Soter.
But you may call us "Ophi".
TOSS

Would anyone like a snack?
We do not mind sharing!

HECK YEAH! It's officially a freak-fest!
Are you out of your mind!?
Nice to meet you, Bro-phi.
Uhh...
I'll have a blue snack- not covered in dirt, please.

So you three are also damned to carry the emissaries of cosmic overlords?
I've never heard it put that way, but pretty much!

I guess this means we're all in similar situations, right?
Perhaps we can combine our efforts to accomplish our goals sooner!
You see, my emissary-
-asked me to find two daughters.
But, so far I've only found a pair of haunted idiots.
Wait, who are the idiots?
So I'm happy we found you, Ophi...
...despite our stuff getting scorched.
Ah yes... ...the fire...
...impressive work by a fierce emissary, surely.
Impressive?
More like "excessive."
OH RIGHT!
See this cool, purple bracelet?
Not this again-
It was a gift from my boyfriend after the destruction of our boarding school.
Because unlike my stupid emissary-
-he's so cool and cute and kind and-
STOP!!
Uhg, fine. I'm actually just worried about Klay, alright?
And you know what else?
This isn't the work of Scavengers.
Nothing I've ever seen created lava like that.
All this destruction just makes me wish I were with him.
Ah...young love is truly endearing.

We understand completely!
To see in our mind's eye the cosmic energy we share-
-the way his second jaw unhinges-
I don't think you're talking about the same thing.

That is, to say...
We are sure your love will find you again.
Thanks, Ophi!
I'm glad someone gets it.

Feel free to talk of your love as well, friend Alexa.
I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY ABOUT LOVE!!!
Perhaps your hate, then?
SIGH

Alexa is DEFINITELY not the lovey-dovey type.
Oh stuff it.

I have the same goal as Aurora.
I need to find someone for my emissary and myself.
We've only begun to look for them...
...
so we still have a long journey ahead of us...

Oh, sheesh- Finally!
BZZZZZTTT

Röek! How are you- I mean - what's the status of the ship?
[-LEXA -GERS EADING- WAY!]
Röek! I can't hear you, you're breaking up-
[LANDING- SCAV- GERS-]
[HEAR-]
What's that?
[LANDI-]
What's landing? Our ship-?

That's ...
SCAVENGERS!? ARE HERE?!
SHOULDN'T WE BE LEAVING!?
They truly waste no time!
Man... I just want a nap.

TO BE CONTINUED...

Michelle Fus graduated from the School of Visual Arts in 2011 for Computer Art and Animation. After interning at Pixar and working at DreamWorks Animation for two years, they decided to follow their dreams by telling stories and creating comics. Fus has been working on their sci-fi/fantasy epic, AVA'S DEMON, for many years and they hope to continue to add new and exciting installments to the story for as long as they can. They want to thank you for supporting their work and hope you thoroughly enjoy this book!

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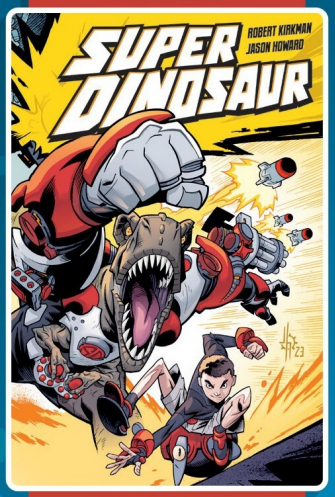

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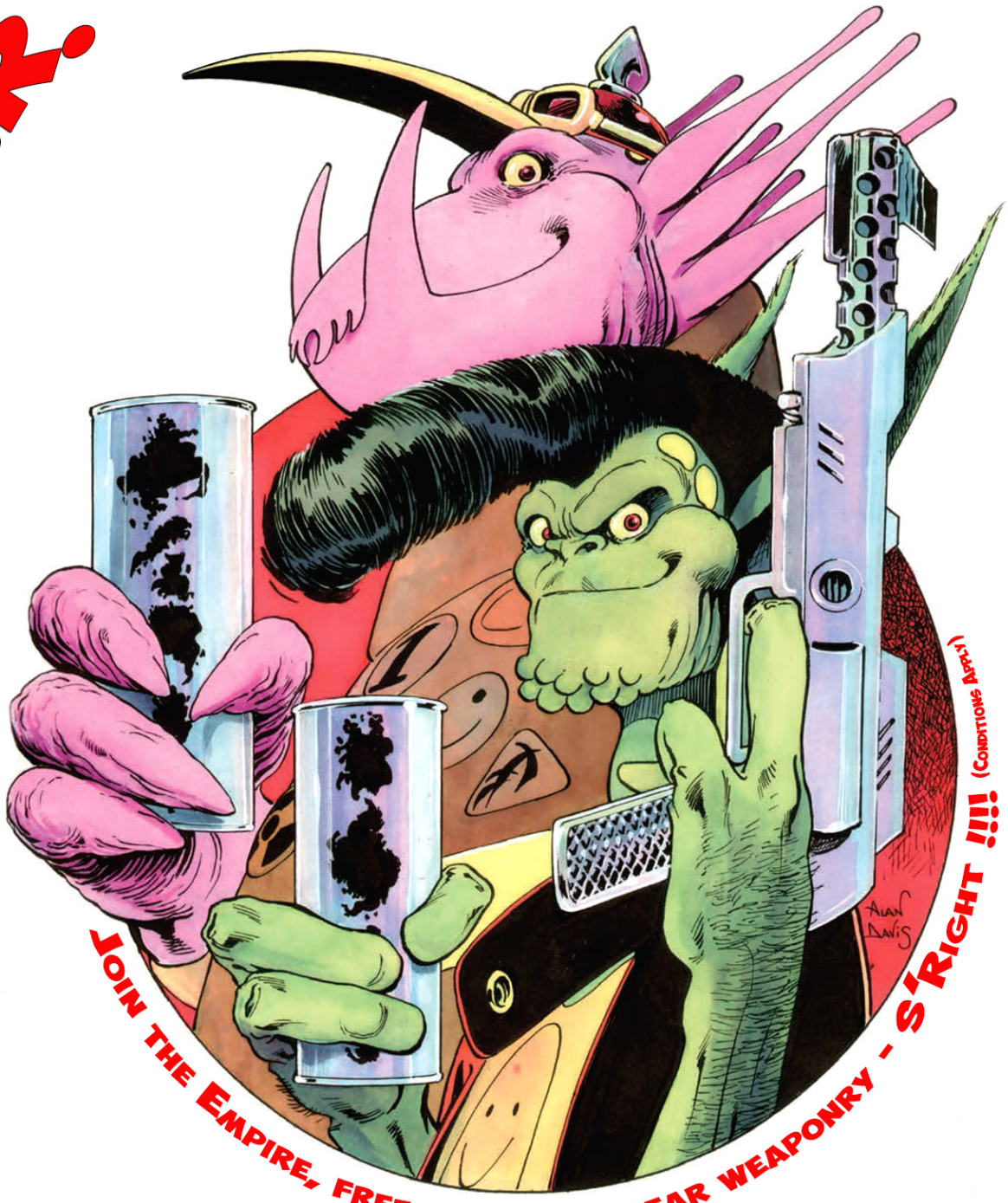

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